Longfield Solar Farm Community Liaison Group (CLG)
Minutes of Meeting
Wednesday, 2 September 2026, 12 Noon

Boreham Village Hall, Main Road, Boreham, CM3 3JD

Members

Name	Organisation
Andy Higham – Principal Planning Officer	Essex County Council
Timothy Havers - Principal Planning Manager Chris Paggi - Planning Development Manager	Braintree District Council
Ruth Mabbutt - Senior Planning Officer/Planning Lead	Chelmsford City Council
Mark Norman	National Highways
Lee Perry T/Station Manager, Risk John Webster Station Mgr Future Infrastructure Risk	Essex Fire and Rescue Service
Will Wilcock Sion Davies	National Grid
communications@essexalliance.org.uk	The Essex Alliance
Mark Weale - Chair	Hatfield Peverel Parish Council
Anthony Kingham - Chair	Little Waltham Parish Council
Dawn Whelan - Business & Partnerships Lead	East of England Ambulance Trust
Graham Reeve Area Walking Environment Officer	Essex Ramblers Association
Linda Reed (LR)	Boreham Parish Council
Robin Dixon (RD)	Terling and Fairstead Parish Council

In attendance

Name	Organisation
Peter Elkington (PE)	Boreham Parish Council
James Raven – City Councillor (Cllr JR)	Boreham and The Leighs
Katherine Evans – Chair	Essex Local Access Forum
Jennifer Johns (JJ) Project Manager	EDF Power Solutions, Longfield Solar Farm
Clodagh Steel - Community Liaison Officer (CS)	EDF Power Solutions, Longfield Solar Farm

1 Welcome

CS welcomed attendees and apologised that National Grid were unable to attend, confirming that they have agreed to join the next meeting.

2 Minutes of the June 2026 Meeting

CS confirmed the minutes of the June 2026 meeting were agreed and have been loaded to the Longfield Solar Farm website https://www.longfieldsolarfarm.co.uk/downloads/

3 Highways Update

- Wheelers Hill and Cranham Road will be closed from 5 October 2026 until March 2027 to allow for road widening and Longfield Solar Farm site entrance works.
- Clearance of a small area of vegetation along Wheelers Hill has been delayed due to nesting birds and will be completed in late September/early October.
- Essex and Suffolk Water are diverting pipes along Cranham Road and Wheelers Hill. These works have had to stop when the local festivals have happened at Wheelers Farm. The works are expected to continue until the end of September 2026.
- The road widening works will require full (hard) road closures with roads reopening as soon as it is safe to do so. Due to the nature of the works, there will be no pedestrian or cyclist access during the closures.
- The final highways improvement works design is currently awaiting approval from Essex Highways, Road Safety Audit and the Local Planning Authority.
- We are working closely with Chelmsford Garden Community to coordinate activities, as they are undertaking their works on Wheelers Hill at the same time.

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4 Landscaping

- We are currently surveying and maintaining previous planting with a view for replacing any failures to take place in February 2027 and the next phase of new planting to happen later in 2027.

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5 Main Site Construction

- Groundworks, enabling works and construction of the spine roads within the site will begin in April 2027. This will see the start of our HGV vehicles delivering to the main site. Delivery of stone will be the biggest peak in traffic; the stone is used for the tracks and hardstanding areas.
- JJ confirmed that all Longfield Solar Farm HGVs will be monitored and tracked, ensuring they remain on the designated permitted route.

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6 AOB

- Cllr JR asked about the recent closure of Waltham Road. CS explained that it was due to a burst water main and noted that the recent hot weather and poor condition of the pipes has increased the risk of such incidents and will impact our works when it occurs.
- Cllr JR asked to be notified as soon as possible of any emergency road closures, such as those caused by burst water mains, so that the council website can be updated promptly.
- CS noted that a couple of local residents had raised questions about the vegetation removal works. CS and JJ explained that the removal was essential to the road widening and that the area had been surveyed by an ecologist before any works began.
- JJ also outlined that any vegetation removal is accounted for and incorporated into our main site Biodiversity plans where we are undertaking lots of additional new planting of trees, hedgerows and wildflower areas. Further information on the Biodiversity Design Strategy is

published on the Planning Inspectorate website: EN010118-000323-6-5_BNG_Report.pdf

- CS to invite the Longfield Solar Farm Employment & Skills Officer to present at a future meeting.

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7 Next Meeting

- November 2026
