

## **PLANNING (SITE VISITS) SUB COMMITTEE**

**(Civic Centre, Neath)**

**Members Present:**

**30<sup>th</sup> June, 2014**

**Chairman:** Councillor R.G.Jones

**Councillors:** Mrs.P.Bebell, Mrs.R.Davies, S.K.Hunt, Mrs.D.Jones,  
Mrs.S.M.Penry, I.D.Williams and Mrs.L.G.Williams

**Local Members:** Councillor Mrs.M.A.Lewis – (Attended on site only).  
Having previously declared a personal and prejudicial  
interest in this matter, Councillor Mrs. M.A. Lewis did  
not speak at the site.

Councillor D. Whitelock

**Officers in Attendance:** S.Ball, K.Davies, D.Adlam, P.Colman and  
Miss.G.Cirillo

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### **Report of the Head of Planning**

(Note: An amendment sheet, attached and agreed, was circulated at the meeting, as detailed in Appendix A hereto).

1. **PLANNING APPLICATION No. P/2013/1087**

Installation of a ground mounted photovoltaic (solar electricity) plant, including the erection of a control room, switching room, inverter stations and other equipment, tracks, drainage, fencing, landscaping and all associated building and engineering operations, for use for a period of up to 25 years at Tyle'r Fedwen Farm, Tyle'r Fedwen Farm Access Road, Cwmavon, Port Talbot, SA12 9YA.

The Sub Committee considered the above mentioned application. A copy of the report was circulated for Members' consideration, and a copy of the amendment sheet attached hereto at Appendix A, was circulated at the meeting.

Following the site visit, the Sub Committee discussed the suitability of the proposed construction access route having regard to highway safety. It also took into account the views of the Local Member Councillor D. Whitelock.

**RESOLVED:** that the application be recommended for refusal having regard to highway safety due to the danger created by the increase in volume of traffic.

(Note: with regard to the amendment sheet referred to above and attached as Appendix A, on which the Chair had allowed sufficient time for Members to read, in respect of application items on the published agenda, the Chairman had permitted urgent circulation/consideration thereof at today's meeting, the particular reasons and the circumstances being not to further delay the planning process, unless the Committee itself wanted to defer any applications and to ensure that Members take all extra relevant information into account before coming to any decision at the meeting).

**CHAIRMAN**

**APPENDIX A**

**PLANNING (SITE VISITS) SUB COMMITTEE**

**30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2014**

**ENVIRONMENT**

**AMENDMENT SHEET**

**PART 1 – Doc.Code: PSVS-300614-REP-EN-NP-UA**

**SECTION A – MATTER FOR DECISION**

**1. PLANNING APPLICATION RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL**

1.1	APP NO: P/2013/1087	TYPE: Full Plans	Page Nos: 4-31	Wards Affected: Bryn & Cwmavon
PROPOSAL:	Installation of a ground mounted photovoltaic (solar electricity) plant, including the erection of a control room, switching room, inverter stations and other equipment, tracks, drainage, fencing, landscaping and all associated building and engineering operations, for use for a period of up to 25 years			
LOCATION:	Tyle'r Fedwen Farm, Tyle'r Fedwen Farm Access Road, Cwmavon, Port Talbot, SA12 9YA			

A request has been made for confirmation of present bus movements using the proposed route together with proposed HGV movements associated with the solar farm construction phase.

<b>Vehicle</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>No. of vehicles / movements</b>
School coach	12.5m (l) x 2.7 metres (w)	Twice a day (4 movements)
Bus Service	largest 11.50m (l) x 2.5m (w)	45 per day

### Breakdown of Proposed HGV Movements (vehicle size 11m (l) x 2.5m (w))

The Construction Method Statement states that due to the proximity of Cwmafan Infant School, no deliveries will take place between 08:15 – 09:00 and 15:00 – 15:45. Outside of these times deliveries will take place between 07:30 and 17:30 Monday to Friday and 08:30 and 13:00 on Saturdays.

Although the report provides a detailed breakdown, the HGV movements associated with the construction phase of the development can be summarised as follows: -

<b>Week</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>No. of vehicles / movements (based on 6 day week)</b>
Weeks 1 and 2	hedgerow planting, cabling, machinery, welfare accommodation	Approx. 41-45 deliveries (82 – 90 movements)  Average between 3-4 deliveries (6 to 8 movements in total) per day
Following week 2	delivery of items such as the inverters, transformers, control room and solar panel support frames	Estimated 20 deliveries (40 Movements) in total
Weeks 3 to 12	primarily solar panels	Approximately 128 deliveries (256 movements) to the site.  Average between 12–13 deliveries (24– 26 movements) per week
weeks 13 and 14	removal of machinery and welfare accommodation	Approx. 13 vehicles (26 movements) Average 1 - 2 per day (2-4 movements)

### Clarification of Total Movements

It has been noted that the report refers to there being approximately 226 HGV deliveries in total. However, given the reduction in the number of panels to be installed on the land the figure should actually read **206 deliveries** (equating to 412 movements) spread over the 14 week construction period, with no greater than 3 – 5 (6-10 movements) per day.