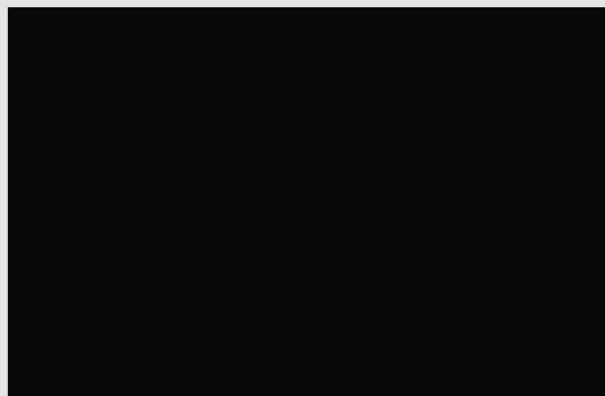
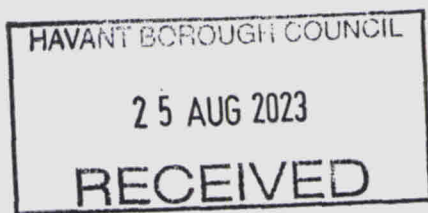




21 August, 2023

Dear Sir / Madam,

Application Reference Number:APP/23/00491

**Site Address: Waterlooville Health Centre, Dryden Close,
Waterlooville, PO7 6AL**

We OBJECT to this application for the following reasons:

- Loss of open spaces, countryside and other natural habitats

‘All development should demonstrate that its design: 1. a) Identifies and responds positively to existing features and natural...character within or close to the proposed development site; (b) Integrates with the existing local landscape features, promotes wildlife and biodiversity...’ (Havant Borough Council Core Strategy Policy CS16 High Quality Design).

It is our opinion that the installation of (according to what we can count on the plan submitted) 84 ground-mounted PV panels at a potential height of up to 4 metres on the greenspace behind Waterlooville Health Centre will undoubtedly cause a major disturbance to the character of the landscape both within the grounds and beyond, and there will be a significant environmental effect on the same (Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Second Edition 2002). We have always valued the existence of the green-grassed well-kept area with its trees and bushes beyond our boundary, an increasingly rare sight in Waterlooville. Other people have been noted to enjoy this area also, contributing to their mental health and wellbeing. The National Planning Policy Framework 2. Achieving Sustainable Development states: ‘the

planning system has... a social objective – to support ...healthy communities, by fostering a well-designed and safe-built environment with open spaces that...support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and an environmental objective – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural environment.' We are concerned about the detrimental effect these series of PV panels will have on the biodiversity of the area. At present we enjoy the presence of frogs, slow worms, hedgehogs, bats, numerous birds including the sighting of a turtle dove and several visits by a sparrowhawk.

According to the Havant Borough Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (page 29) 'Green space... contribute[s] to local character. Loss of greenery should be avoided in spaces that provide valuable green settings for buildings.' This is certainly one of them.

- Effect on daylight and outlook

We are concerned that the change of use from green space to an area harvesting electricity will affect our daylight in two ways:

1. The proximity of the solar panels (with a possible height of 4 metres)

- according to the plans supplied -

2. The possibility that 'glint and glare' which are solar reflections as mentioned in the 'Planning practice guidance for renewable and low carbon energy' (Department for Communities and Local Government paragraph 27 page 9),

According to the Havant Borough Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document 4.17: 'Views should be considered an asset...' and 4.18: 'New development should make the most of opportunities to maximise views to ...open

spaces which are considered assets.’ This development flies in the face of these statements and will have a negative impact on our residential amenity. Currently we have the good fortune to be able to relax by watching distant trees from our dwelling; if this development happens we will be greeted with hard metal structures all up to 4 metres tall and between (we calculate from the given measurements) 15.876 metres length (for the 28-panel array) and 20.412 metres length (for the 36-panel array). There will also be a 20-panel array of 11.340 metres in length. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] They will be entirely **out of character** with the existing local landscape, which is mainly residential, and in contradiction to Policy CS16: the installation will not ‘integrate’ with it at all and will cause tension instead of relaxation, preventing us from having residential amenity.

Policy CS16 also states that ‘All development should demonstrate that its design: 1) ...respects local context and: ...c) Uses the characteristics of the locality to help inform the design of the new development including heights, massing, ...plot widths and depths, materials...’ We believe that the installation of 84 metal and glass PV panels with the dimensions noted above not only seem to be excessive in terms of the measurements mentioned in Policy CS16, but - together with the ones intended to be installed on the roof of the Health Centre - we question if the amount of panels is in excess of the needs of the Centre. According to OFGEM the ‘typical annual electricity use (kWh)’ of a ‘2-3 bedroom house’ is 2,900. A total of approximately 10 solar panels would have an average output of 2650kWh.

- Noise

Policy CS16 states: ‘All development should demonstrate that ...1.e) The development does not cause unacceptable harm to the amenity of neighbours through ... noise...’

We note that the Installation Specifications for the ‘Three Phase Inverter for Europe’ shown in the planning application describe the ‘Noise’ as ‘<62 dBA’. It seems that neither the Site Location plan nor the Location plan show where the inverter(s) will be placed and so we

question the amount of noise disturbance that they will create. We are concerned that a persistent noise of this level will be disruptive on a daily basis and cause upset amongst residents within our generally peaceful neighbourhood.

- Safety

We have mentioned the role the green area has in promoting people's health and well-being (ref. National Planning Policy Framework 2. Achieving sustainable development, paragraphs 7 and 8), both at the Health Centre and for ourselves as it creates a valuable calmness beyond our property boundary – something that will be lost upon the installation of PV panels. Further to this, we question how 'well-designed and safe-built' the installation will be: guidance from the National Fire Chiefs Council states that there should be 'Provision of adequate water supply and firefighting infrastructure to allow safe and effective emergency response.' Is this in place, considering the activities of smoking, barbeques and fireworks that take place either on the greenspace or in the surrounding area? We see no provision for security features such as fences or 'No Smoking' measures mentioned in the planning application, which we believe other developments containing ground-mounted solar PV panels use in order to prevent mishappenings ('the need for, and impact of, security measures such as lights and fencing': Department for Communities and Local Government 'Planning practice guidance for renewable and low carbon energy'). These measures would again in this case, however, contribute to the loss of open space and outlook as again they would be out of character with the local landscape.

Policy CS16 point 2a) states 'The layout of the development reduces opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour.' We question what specific physical security measures would be in place to protect these panels from being stolen or damaged. Damaged panels could emit cadmium, a known carcinogen, into the atmosphere, even though in minute amounts (Fire and Solar PV Systems – Literature Review Issue 3.4, BRE National Solar Centre, www.assets.publishing.service.gov.uk).

Policy CS16 point 2a) also states 'The layout of the design...makes provision for the management and maintenance of the development.' Without specific security provisions in place we are not confident that the panels and their surrounding area will be maintained properly, and disposed of properly at the end of their life.

Should this application be regrettably accepted, please ensure 'that the installations are removed when no longer in use and the land is restored to its previous use.'www.gov.uk/guidance/renewable-and-low-carbon-energy)

However, we would suggest that the PV panels be installed on the roof and more trees be planted to offset the carbon footprint together with seating so that the well-being of staff and the public is increased.

We look forward to a satisfactory outcome.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours faithfully,

