

Members Questions for Council – 15 February 2023

Question(s)	Member	Executive Member / Officer	Answer
<p>Blenheim Solar Farm - I realise that as a NISP application, the decision will be out of our hands and ultimately depends on the Inspectors report to the SoS for a final decision.</p> <p>However, how is the WODC Development Committee going to handle it once more detail is forthcoming, as clearly it would be a large enough proposal to merit all Planning members to debate how WODC responds to it when officially consulted?</p> <p>I have heard that the applicants have offered to pay the salary of an officer whose time would be solely dedicated to the application. Can that be right?, or is that in relation to the Enstone Car museum case?</p>	<p>Cllr Harry St. John - Ind, North Leigh</p>	<p>Carl Rylett / Phil Shaw</p>	<p>The application is unusual in that it will be determined by the Secretary of State as opposed to the District Council. Because it is unusual (the first one of its type ever submitted in the District) the scheme of delegation that applies to planning matters does not specify where it will be commented upon (e.g Council, Executive, DC Committee, Uplands, Lowlands, Officers etc). That matter is still being worked through and will of course ultimately be determined by Members.</p> <p>The application has absorbed and will in future require a huge amount of Officer time. The District receives no fee for processing the application. We are thus seeking for the costs of the Officer time that has had to be reallocated to this project to be reimbursed to the District by way of Planning Performance Agreement (PPA). These are a standard part of the planning process whereby Councils can seek for their costs to be met in return for meeting the deadlines set out in the PPA for providing responses at predetermined times.</p>

