



Stowe by Chartley Parish Council

Circulated to all Staffordshire Parish Councillors

22rd April 2025

Dear Councillors and Clerks,

Solar Panel Farm Installations

Having spoken with a number of councillors across our part of Staffordshire, we are aware of the growing concern about the very large numbers of plans to install solar panels across large swathes of agricultural land. At the time of writing, plans have already been passed for schemes at **Lower Farm, Drointon** and at **Newton, Blithfield**.

Developers of **Yew Tree Farm, Drointon** have stated that published plans will be placed before Stafford Borough Council in "the near future". This would mean that around 80% of the hamlet of Drointon would be covered by solar panels.

In addition, information is available that somewhere in the region of ten more plans are being mooted. We believe that development on this scale will seriously alter the nature of the countryside and should not be allowed to proceed. However, if the size of the issue is as great as we believe, the concern is one for the region rather than simply for each Parish Council. Resisting what appears to be wide-spread development, will call for concerted voices and actions across the wide number of parishes affected.

Therefore, we propose to host a meeting of councillors from the parishes to investigate the possible advantages of banding together to counteract what we fear may well become a tsunami of increasingly large developments.

The meeting will be held at: **Stowe-by-Chartley Village Hall, ST18 0LG** on **Monday 19th May 2025** at **6.30pm** this meeting is only for councillors and clerks, anyone can listen to the meeting, on virtually online platform, however they cannot attend in person or participate in the meeting.

Please would you be good enough to circulate this to all councillors, as soon as possible and invite them to attend, the meeting in person or virtually. Please let us know if you wish to attend in person, unfortunately this will be limited to the first 90 individuals, who apply due to the size of our village hall,

Thankfully, there is no limit on virtual attendance, as our sponsor Cloudy IT (www.cloudyit.co.uk) will make this facility available to us on the evening, as the company specialises in this of service. Please state your, preference on the pdf reply slip attached, if you wish to attend in person or virtually online via Teams. If no one is able, to attend from your council, a nil return would be appreciated.

Stowe by Chartley Parish Council have attached the following for your reference:

- A pdf reply slip which can be completed, and **returned as soon possible and no later than Wednesday 14th May 2025.**
- A spreadsheet of the Solar Farms, we are aware of in Staffordshire to date.
- A background information document.
- An agenda for the meeting for reference.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Peter Coote BA(Hons), MA(Ed) - Chair, Stowe-by-Chartley Parish Council

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Please reply on the pdf reply return slip, as soon as possible and no later than **Wednesday 14th May 2025**, to the clerk at Stowe by Chartley Parish Council on clerk@stowe-by-chartley-pc.gov.uk.

For details regarding the meeting go to www./stowe-by-chartley-pc.gov.uk or contact the clerk@stowe-by-chartley-pc.gov.uk

Please feel free to forward this email and attachments to any other third party person or persons, who may have concerns regarding Solar Farms and may also want to listen to the meeting.

This event has been sponsored by **Cloudy IT**, who are specialist experts, advising over 300 parish, district, borough and county councils to manage their digital presence and cloud storage. www.cloudyit.co.uk

NB. It is interesting to note that on 18 June 2015 *the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2018 – 2021)* published “Guidance to help local councils in developing policies for renewable and low carbon energy “. This was updated on 14 August 2023. This guidance includes the following statements:

- The need for renewable or low carbon energy does not automatically override environmental protections.
- Cumulative impacts require particular attention, especially the increasing impact that wind turbines and large-scale solar farms can have on landscape and local amenity.

- Protecting local amenity is an important consideration which should be given proper weight in planning decisions.