

RWE - Butterfly Solar Farm

Our Approach to Engaging with Stakeholders and Residents – Formal Pre-Application Consultation

Background

RWE commenced informal consultation for Butterfly Solar Farm with stakeholders and residents in February 2025.

Whilst informal consultation is not a statutory requirement, we believe that it is crucial to engage with stakeholders and residents early on to inform our plans, and prior to commencing the formal pre-application consultation which is a statutory requirement for proposals of this nature. Butterfly Solar Farm is categorised by Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW) as a Development of National Significance (DNS).

This document provides an outline of how we conducted informal consultation, the feedback we received and how we intend to adapt our approach for formal pre-application consultation.

Our Approach – Informal Consultation

In February 2025 we wrote to stakeholders and residents to introduce Butterfly Solar Farm and launch informal consultation. The communications provided details on the proposals and the various opportunities to engage, and consisted of a consultation leaflet and an introductory letter about the scheme. Both English and Welsh copies were provided.

The website ([Butterfly / Glöyn Byw Solar Farm](#)), provided an opportunity for stakeholders and residents to find out more and get in touch, with a dedicated telephone number, email and postal address, as well as an online feedback form and virtual consultation room.

The website also included:

- A Site Location Plan
- Landscape Masterplans
- Photomontages
- Draft Planning Documents
- FAQs

The communications also advertised the in-person informal consultation days:

- Friday 21st February 1-6pm at Marchwiel Village Hall
- Wednesday 26th February 1-6pm at Ruabon Village Hall

The project team were in attendance to answer any questions and provide further information. There were 14 bilingual exhibition boards available as well as supporting plans. Bilingual feedback forms were also available at the event. All of the information provided at the event was also available via a virtual consultation on the project website.

Local newspapers were used to advertise the consultation days in print and online.

Additionally, we visited 15 nearby neighbours at their homes to discuss the proposals and listen to concerns. Everyone who requested an in-person one to one meeting were met with to ensure they had the opportunity to make their views known to the team in their chosen surrounding.

The feedback from informal consultation will be used to help shape our plans before commencing formal pre-application consultation expected to be held over 6 weeks during the Summer of 2025.

Feedback – Our Response

This document is intended to help us plan formal pre-application consultation, taking into consideration feedback received from informal consultation and feedback from key community stakeholders. The topics covered are:

- **The Consultation Process**
- **Area of Engagement**
- **Informal Consultation Days – Locations, Event Timings and Notification**
- **Consultation Materials**

Topic	Feedback Received	Our Response
The Consultation Process	Feedback suggested: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stakeholders and residents requested more detail on the planning process particularly around the requirements for formal pre-application consultation and the timescales associated with this.	Through our formal pre-application consultation communications we will provide further detail on the DNS process and timescales. We always seek to exceed the requirements to deliver effective and robust consultation, and will continue to work in this way. Formal pre-application consultation is a six week consultation as specified by PEDW. As part of formal pre-application consultation a draft planning application should be provided, which is available to stakeholders and residents. We will have printed copies of the draft application available at the consultation events, in addition to having these documents available on the consultation website.
Area of Engagement	To announce the proposal and invite stakeholders and residents to take part in informal consultation we wrote to properties within 1KM of the boundary of the three panelled areas, supplying a bilingual consultation leaflet and covering letter. Feedback suggested that 1KM wasn't a large enough consultation zone and at the next consultation we should widen the area.	In response to this feedback we have increased the area we intend to write to taking this to 1.5KM from the three panelled areas. In addition, we will advertise in two print editions of the Wrexham Leader in different weeks; at the start of and midway through the consultation period. We will also advertise online with the Leader Live and North Wales Online at the start of the consultation window. We will advertise the dates of the consultation period, the in-person consultation dates and information on the scheme. Further to this we will

		<p>notify local stakeholders, who represent the Development area, at the start of the consultation launch to ensure they have the opportunity to notify residents and share updates on social/community pages.</p>
<p>Informal Consultation Days – Locations, Event Timings and Notification</p>	<p>Feedback suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were not enough in-person events around the three proposed arrays • There should have been earlier notification of the events, and the period between notification of the events and them taking place was not long enough. 	<p>We held two consultation days at Marchwiel Village Hall and Ruabon Village Hall. We will seek to revisit these venues again for formal pre-application consultation and add three more events seeking availability at the following venues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Johnstown Community Centre or a suitable alternative • Rhostyllen Parish Hall or a suitable alternative • Eyton Primary School or a suitable alternative <p>This would result in a total of five in-person consultation events (subject to venue availability). We would welcome any further suggestions of suitable locations as community spaces are well used so we often struggle to secure availability.</p> <p>The consultation days for formal pre-application consultation will run for 6 hours with the preferred timeslot being 12pm to 6pm subject to venue availability.</p> <p>There were 14 days between the communications arriving and the first consultation day at informal consultation. At formal pre-application consultation this would allow for two weeks in the middle of the six week period for the above mentioned consultation days followed by two weeks for feedback to be submitted. This aligns with the statutory consultation period specified by PEDW.</p>
<p>Consultation Materials</p>	<p>Feedback suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At informal consultation there was a lack of detail on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What the infrastructure would look like 	<p>The materials used for informal consultation were designed to act as initial, preliminary plans. The plans that will be used for formal pre-application consultation will show more technical specifications/information. In addition to this, the draft</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Anything that was represented as a 'dot' on the array plans ○ Plans exhibiting the proximity of infrastructure to homes ○ The quality of the agricultural land ○ The proposed landscaping and screening to include tree and hedge planting, and distance from the site perimeter of the site. • Presentation of materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There were suggestions that the presentation of some materials was too heavily focused on habitats and wildlife enhancement features (such as bird boxes/insect hotels being shown as too large in terms of scale on the plans) rather than the type, scale and size of the infrastructure. 	<p>planning application will be available to view and comment on as part of the formal pre-application consultation, inclusive of more technical details of the proposals.</p>
Consultation Conduct	<p>There was some feedback to suggest that the conduct of some of the RWE project team members delivering the informal consultation days may have caused distress to a resident in attendance, that concerns were not fairly recognised and there was a feeling that the consultation was just a 'formality'.</p>	<p>We recognise that there will be a range of views expressed during a consultation of a proposed development such as Butterfly Solar Farm, and we are committed to engaging in a sensitive and open manner. We engaged individually with those concerned to ensure that they knew of the feedback mechanisms available to respond to the consultation and to enable them to continue a dialogue with us. Likewise, any residents who do not feel comfortable attending an open day will be able to request a meeting with the team at a suitable time in the comfort of their own home/in a neutral space to ensure their concerns can be heard in a sensitive manner.</p>