BES-210-1: SPRINGFIELD SOLAR FARM AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM

INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS IN COMMUNITY HEARING SESSION

Date: Thursday 14 January 2027
Time: 18:30pm – (approx.) 21:30pm (TBC)
Location: Dunbar Parish Church

Purpose of the session

This session gives local residents and community representatives the opportunity to speak before the reporters on why they object to or support the proposed Springfield solar farm and battery energy storage system. This session will be less formal than the more structured inquiry and hearing sessions. There will be no cross-examination of participants. More information on community hearing sessions can be found in Guidance Note 30.

This session is not an opportunity to present technical or expert evidence, even if the local people taking part happen to have specialisms in topics that are relevant. Where matters involving technical or expert evidence have been raised, the reporters have arranged for them to be dealt with in the other hearing and inquiry sessions of the inquiry specifically focused on those topics.

The session is also not an opportunity to raise new issues, that you have not already raised in your submissions on the application (for instance, in your objection or letter of support).

Preparing for the community hearing session

Each community hearing participant will be required to submit a written statement of their evidence. This should be based on your initial representation and the evidence submitted to the appeal. It should not raise new grounds of objection or other new matters. Other documents should not normally be attached to the hearing statements. Your statement may respond to more recent evidence or additional environmental information submitted by other parties. These statements will be circulated to the applicant and to the other participants.

If you wish to speak, a written copy of your hearing statement must be submitted by 16 November 2026.

Participants who do not submit a community hearing statement on time will not be able to speak. They will be able to attend as observers to the session.

At the community hearing, you will have the option of reading out your written statement or part of it, or you may choose not to speak. You will be given 4 minutes in which to read out your statement. Practice reading your statement aloud to ensure it will fit within this time limit. Avoiding repetition of the same points may allow for more people to participate in the session. If you overrun, the reporters may stop you to ensure fair time for other speakers.

The reporters may have questions for participants, based on the evidence and their written statements.

The applicant and the council will be invited to attend the hearing. They may take part. However, in the past, it has been the practice of most applicants and councils only to observe the meeting. The reporters may ask questions of the applicant or the council during the community hearing.

Indicative running order and timings for the session

Closer to the time, the reporters will provide a list and running order of the community hearing participants.