



OFFHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Newsletter – February 2021

February Parish Council Meeting

- Cllr Caroline Dyer was appointed as Vice-Chairman.
- Arcus Consultancy Services are acting for Infinis and FFCC Environment about an intention to make a planning application for a solar park proposal on Offham Landfill Site. Should you wish to get in contact with the project team please send an email to the following email OffhamSolarPark@arcusconsulting.co.uk. Further details and a site layout plan are at the end of this newsletter.
- Damage is being done to the Village Green by vehicles driving over and parking on it. The Parish Council intends to pace ragstone rocks or boulders at strategic intervals to protect and preserve The Green.
- Independent Monitoring of blasts at Blaise Farm Quarry are being set up.
- The Book Box on Teston Road is proving extremely popular. Donations are very gratefully received but if there is not enough space on the shelves, please could you take your books back home with you. Any books left on the floor or in boxes are being damaged and often thrown away. Cllr Phil Bailey is mending the glass panes to keep the Book Box watertight. Wendy Williams is looking after the Book Box and was thanked for her hard work.
- Residents who have carried out litter picks in the village were thanked. The Parish Council would like to support more organised litter picks when restrictions allow and will approach TMBC for safety equipment.
- Kent Highways are visiting the village to approve a site in Church Road near the school to install the poles for the Speed Indicator Device.
- Plans for the Annual Parish Meeting and Fund Raising cannot be made until Covid-19 restrictions are relaxed. The Parish Council would like to celebrate the end of lockdown with some sort of village event.
- The Parish Council approved a donation of £100 each to St Michael's Church, Offham Lunch Club and The Scouts. The Church has provided enormous support to the Offham Community Network during the pandemic, it is hoped the Lunch Club will be able to have a celebration meal when the restrictions ease, and the Scouts are self-funding with some families struggling to pay subscription fees at this time.

Parish Council Website

The new Parish Council website is now live – please take a look. It is being constantly updated with new information and news www.offham-pc.gov.uk.



Kent County Council

County Councillor Hohler reported that Asymptomatic Covid-19 testing continue to be popular and the vaccine is being rolled out efficiently in Kent.

KCC are asking for increased resources at Out of Kent Covid Test Centres for HGV's. 2,628 HGV drivers were checked in Kent last month. Almost 100 did not have the correct permits and were turned back and about 200 were given enforcement notices. 22 drivers tested positive and 34 are isolating at Wrotham Heath.

18,501 new businesses were set up in Kent in 2020 which is an increase of 8.1% from 2019.

KCC have launched a consultation on their Vision Zero strategy. They are consulting on their draft five-year Road Safety Strategy for Kent and their 30 year vision. "Vision Zero" aims for zero, or as close as possible, fatalities on Kent's roads each year by 2050. <https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/visionzero/consultationHome> . **The consultation closes at 23:59 on 15 March 2021.**



Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

Borough Councillor Montague reported that planning officers have responded to the Inspector about the Local Plan. TMBC believe that their Local Plan is good. Details are available on their website www.tmbc.gov.uk.

Police and Neighbourhood Watch

Unfortunately there continues to be a number of local incidents in Offham and surrounding villages. Recently a shed was broken into with tools, golf clubs and other items missing. A garage has also been broken into with a number of tools stolen.

Village Contact List

An updated list of contacts, and where and how to report faults and problems has been prepared and is available at the end of this newsletter and on the Parish Council website.

Martyn Begbey

The Parish Council is extremely shocked and saddened by the sudden death of Martyn Begbey. Martyn is a former Parish Councillor, long term resident and friend and will be greatly missed. Our thoughts are with Martyn's family and friends at this difficult time. Martyn was the proud recipient of the Offham Community Award which was presented to him by David Frankling in March 2019.



Offham Parish Council Meetings

The next virtual meeting will be held on Tuesday 2nd March 2021 at 7.30pm.

To contact the Parish Council please email: clerk@offham-pc.gov.uk

For more information please go to our website www.offham-pc.gov.uk

DOES YOUR BUSINESS NEED HELP?

***FREE Trading Standards
COVID & BREXIT advice**

CALL 03333 602300



**KENT & MEDWAY
Growth Hub**
Your gateway to business
growth



**TRADING
STANDARDS**

*Funded to support Kent business by Kent & Medway Growth Hub



<https://mailchi.mp/d8aacdef8487/keep-staff-and-customers-safe?e=5302ce5da8>

Notice of planning application for the installation of ground mounted solar PV array and associated infrastructure on land at Offham Landfill.

Arcus Consultancy Services Ltd has been commissioned by Infinis Solar Developments Ltd. (the Applicant) to prepare an application for the construction of a solar park on land at the closed Ongar landfill. Infinis Solar Developments Ltd. is strategically partnered with FCC Environment, a leading waste and resource management company to complement the existing generation of low carbon power from gas extraction with the development of solar PV on landfill sites. The Applicant is notifying the Parish Council on this proposed development in advance of a planning application being submitted to Kent County Council and Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council (the Council), as the relevant Waste and Minerals Authority.

The proposed site, known as 'Offham Solar Park' would have a generating capacity of approximately 14 Megawatts ('MW') and would cover a total area of approximately 18.8 hectares ('ha'), as shown on the Location Plan accompanying this letter.

Why this Site?

The purpose of the proposed development is to harness solar power to generate electricity and the design of a solar development must take account of potential environmental effects. The proposed development must therefore strike a balance between energy yield and minimising environmental effects. Not every site will be suitable for accommodating solar, and therefore the Applicant has been through a thorough feasibility exercise to assess the suitability of the Site.

The potential for installing a solar park at the Site has been assessed through feasibility work, which assessed technical and environmental issues to derive the most appropriate proposed scale, location and infrastructure layout. The solar project would be developed with due consideration to the existing landfill infrastructure and the landfill restoration plan. The use of this brownfield closed landfill site ensures that there is no loss of greenfield land which could otherwise be used for agriculture, the Site has limited uses due to existing gas infrastructure and below ground contamination. The Development would not interfere with the contaminants beneath the capped landfill surface, as there is no requirement for ground excavation with the solar panels likely to be anchored to the ground with concrete footings, or short piles, so as not to impact on the capping. Additionally, infrastructure for both access and grid are already in place. Views between the Site and nearby settlements are largely screened by the nearby woodland and hedges and trees along the site boundary.

The key criteria which have led to the site being selected for solar development include:

- Solar irradiation levels;
- Proximity to an existing grid connection with capacity to accept the Development with no or minimal upgrades;
- Separation from local population;
- Existing infrastructure including access;
- Land which due is not suitable for conventional uses (i.e. no loss of agricultural land as the existing gas infrastructure results in limited uses for the Site);
- Existing screening provided by trees and hedges;
- Topography;
- Field size/shading;
- Access to the site for construction;
- Absence of national landscape designations;
- Absence of nature conservation designations;
- Located within flood zone 1 and so of low flood risk; and
- The potential for a commercial/land agreement with landowner (FCC).

Following consideration of the above factors and the existing infrastructure within the wider area, the selected site was identified as having very good potential for renewable energy development with minimal environmental impacts.

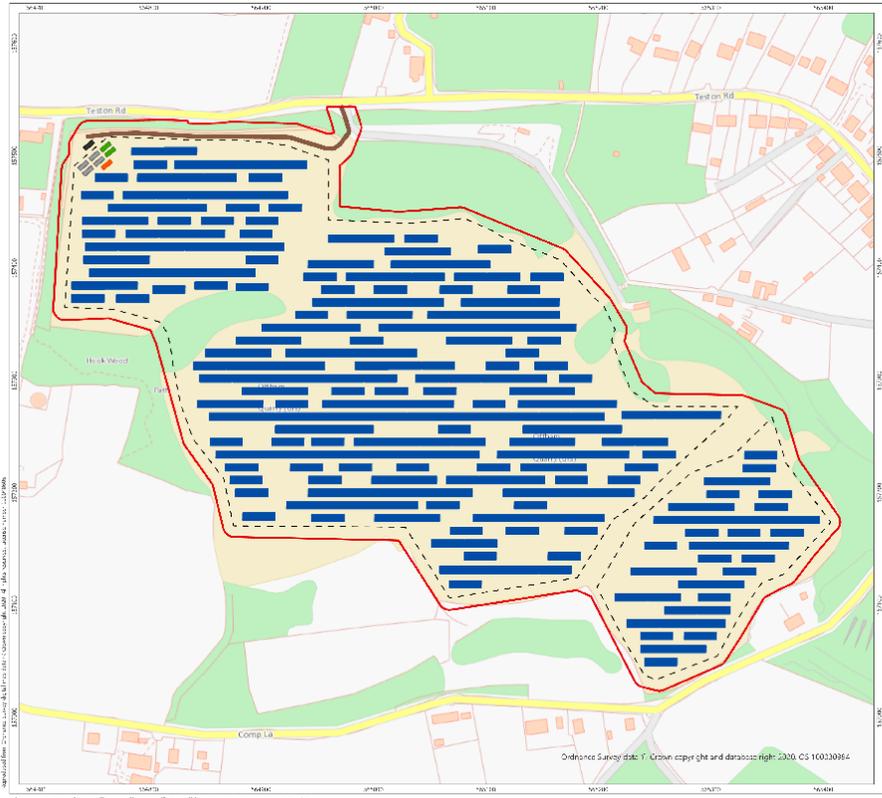
The following environmental surveys and assessments have been carried out and will form part of the planning application when it is submitted:

- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, including Phase 1 Habitat Survey and protected species surveys where necessary;
- Flood Risk Assessment;
- Landscape and Visual Appraisal;
- Glint and Glare Study;
- Transport Statement; and
- Green Belt Assessment.

Should you wish to get in contact with the project team please send an email to the following email address: OffhamSolarPark@arcusconsulting.co.uk. Opportunity to make formal comments on the application will be available once the planning application is submitted to the Council and we would be happy to engage with any interested party at that time.

Regards,

Arcus Consultancy Services Ltd



ARCUS

- Planning Application Boundary
- Perimeter Fencing
- PV Array
- Client Side Switching Station
- DND Switching Station
- General Storage Container
- Battery Energy Storage System
- Access Road

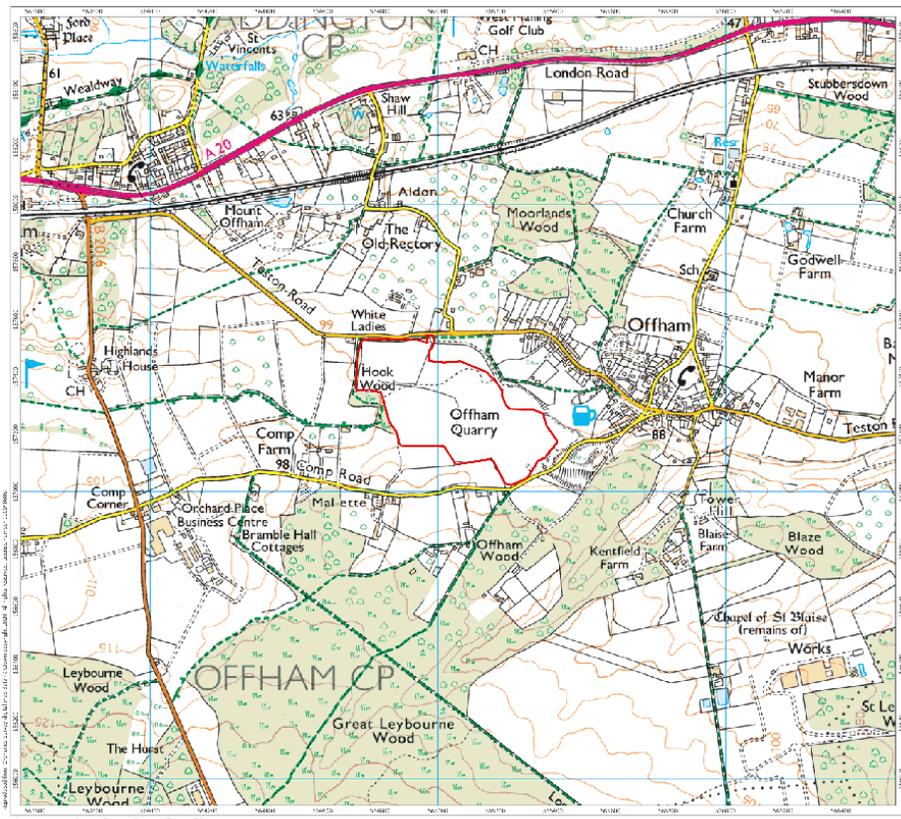
1:2,500 Scale @ A2

0 50 100 m

Prepared by: LL Ref: S/6/20/4/47/5
Checked by: AMH Date: 02/12/2020

Site Layout Plan
Planning Drawing 2

Offham Solar Park
Planning Application



ARCUS

- Planning Application Boundary

1:10,000 Scale @ A2

0 200 400 m

Prepared by: LL Ref: S/6/20/4/47/5
Checked by: AMH Date: 01/12/2020

Site Location
Planning Drawing 1

Offham Solar Park
Planning Application

Most people make sure their homes are locked



Do you:

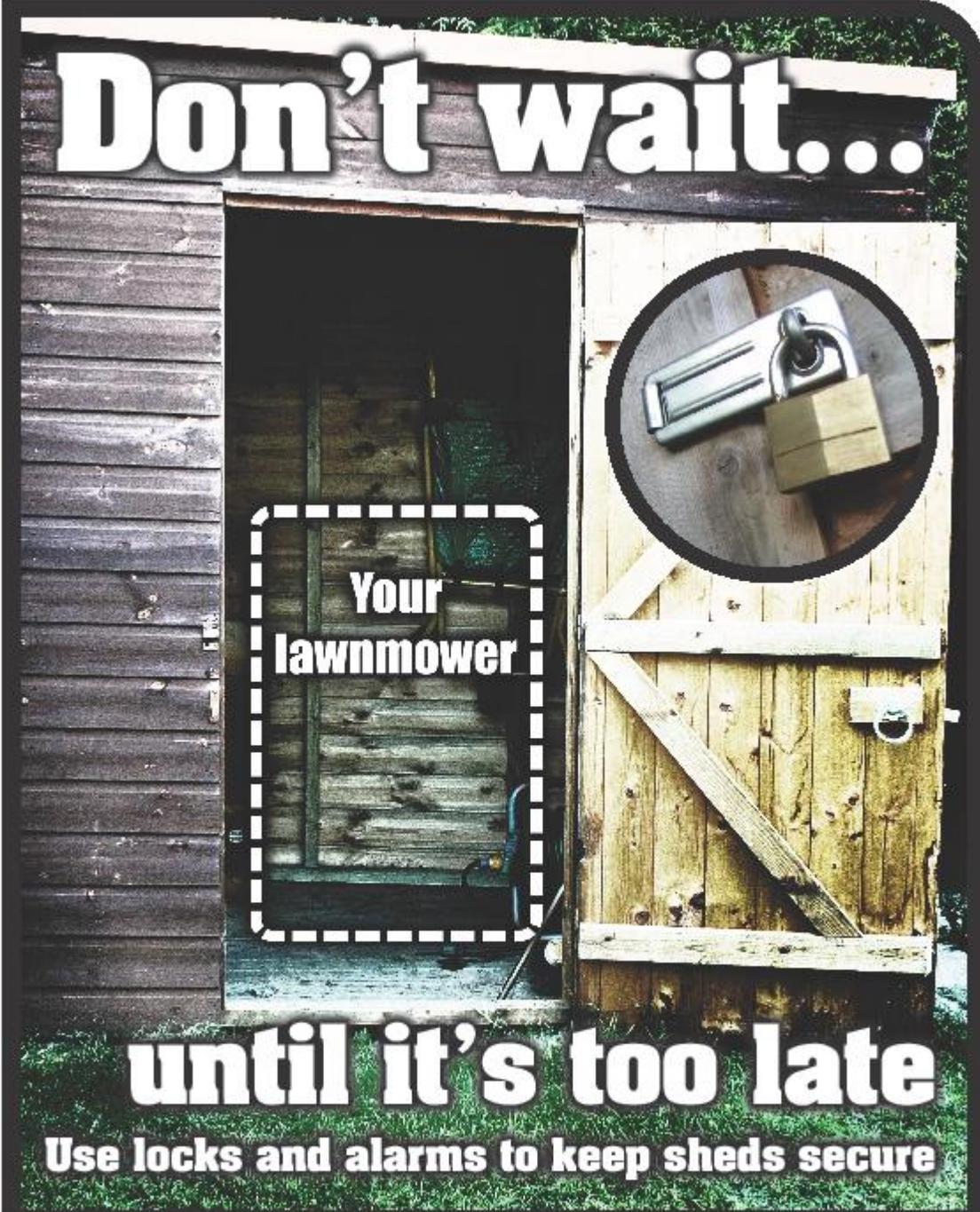
- lock up before you go out or go to bed?
- close windows properly?
- keep cash and keys out of sight?

Find out more www.kent.police.uk/burglary



Kent Police

Don't wait...



Your
lawnmower

until it's too late

Use locks and alarms to keep sheds secure

**STAY
SAFE**

Call 101 for non-urgent issues.

Call 999 in an emergency.

If deaf or speech impaired text
'police' and your message to 60066.



**Kent
Police**

www.kent.police.uk

Whoever you are, there is no excuse for domestic abuse

This is a crime and it can affect anyone.

During this COVID-19 pandemic, limited contact with the outside world may make you or someone you know feel unsafe but our specialist teams are **still here to help 24/7**, in the same way we always do.

Kent Police will respond to your call and can arrest anyone committing offences against you.

In an emergency dial 999 or 101 for non-emergencies. You can also speak to someone online at www.kent.police.uk



There are other agencies working with Kent Police to support you:

- National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 2000 247
- Domestic Abuse Support Services in Kent and Medway: www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk/
- Victim Support: 08 08 16 89 111 www.victimsupport.org.uk
- Childline: 0800 1111



**Kent
Police**



VILLAGE CONTACT LIST - HOW TO REPORT FAULTS AND PROBLEMS

KENT HIGHWAYS



Report a problem on a road or pavement. You can report non-urgent issues online including:

- street light faults
- potholes
- drainage
- traffic signal faults
- overgrown vegetation (including hedges and grass).

www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem

To report any emergency issues outside of normal office hours (Monday - Friday, 9am till 5pm), please telephone 03000 41 91 91.

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL



- Refuse collections - waste.services@tmbc.gov.uk
- Fly tipping and litter – waste.services@tmbc.gov.uk
- Parking
- Street cleaning – waste.services@tmbc.gov.uk

Customer.services@tmbc.gov.uk Telephone 01732 844522

HIGHWAYS ENGLAND



Motorways and Major A Road problems - To Report a problem on the network -

<https://report.highwaysengland.co.uk/>

General Enquiries - info@highwaysengland.co.uk

Telephone: 0300 123 5000

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY



You can report non-urgent issues online including:

- broken stiles
- overgrown vegetation or fallen trees
- damaged or dangerous path surfaces
- damaged or missing signposts.

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/public-rights-of-way/report-a-problem-on-a-right-of-way>

POLICE



Emergency 999. Call 999 if:

- a serious offence is in progress or has just been committed
- someone is in immediate danger or harm
- property is in danger of being damaged
- a serious disruption to the public is likely

You can also text 'Police' to 60066 if you're deaf or hard of hearing.

Silent 999 calls - If you're in danger but you can't talk on the phone, you should still call 999, then [follow the instructions](https://www.kent.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us/us/contact-us/how-to-make-a-silent-999-call/): (https://www.kent.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us/us/contact-us/how-to-make-a-silent-999-call/) depending on whether you're calling from a mobile or a landline.

Non-emergency 101. Call 101 for non-emergency enquiries.

You can also text 'Police' to 60066 if you're deaf or hard of hearing.

Anti-terrorist hotline 0800 789 321. Call the UK Anti-Terrorism Hotline if you've seen or heard something that you think could suggest terrorist activity.

Report online at www.kent.police.uk

PCSO - csu.tonbridge.and.malling@kent.pnn.police.uk

OFFHAM LANDFILL SITE



FCC	24 Hour Emergency Number	01302 553461		
-----	--------------------------------	--------------	--	--

FCC	Michael Ross	07514932598	Site Manager	michael.ross@fccenvironment.co.uk
FCC	Roger Homersham	07968319199	Site Supervisor	roger.homersham@fccenvironment.co.uk

BLAISE FARM QUARRY



- Bill Bowley, Quarry Manager at Gallagher - bill.bowley@gallagher-group.co.uk

BLAISE FARM IVC



- Blaise Landline – 01732 873215 (07.00 – 17.30)
Hayley Adams – Group Operations Manager - Out of hours 07738631501
Hayley.adams@newearthgroup.co.uk + blaise.admin@newearthgroup.co.uk

BLAISE FARM AD PLANT



- Darren Smith, Environmental & Compliance Manager - d.smith@b-ne.uk

BLAISE FARM

You should contact the **operator** about any concerns first since they are best able to respond to queries and address any issues that may arise. If this does not secure a satisfactory outcome you should then contact **KCC** for issues relating to the permitted minerals (quarrying) and waste management development and the **Environment Agency** who have issued the Environmental Permits and are the Primary Regulator.

- Kent County Council (Minerals and Waste Planning): planning.applications@kent.gov.uk
- Environment Agency - enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

If you are making complaints to KCC and the Environment Agency it would be useful to also copy in:

- [Kent County Council](#) Councillor Sarah Hohler - sarah.hohler@kent.gov.uk
- Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council - environmental.protection@tmbc.gov.uk
[Ann Kemp, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Councillor - ann.kemp@tmbc.gov.uk](mailto:ann.kemp@tmbc.gov.uk)
[Piers Montague, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Councillor - piers.montague@tmbc.gov.uk](mailto:piers.montague@tmbc.gov.uk)
- [Offham Parish Council – clerk@offham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@offham-pc.gov.uk)

Please do not copy all emails to KCC, TMBC and the EA, but contact the sites in the first instance. For the waste sites it may not be clear which plant is responsible for the issues you are concerned about, so it is suggested that you report to both the IVC Site and the AD Site who will be able to identify which is responsible.