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To: [Planning \(SMDC\)](#)
Subject: Checkley Parish Councils decisions from meeting 16.01.2024
Date: 17 January 2024 10:21:41

SMDC No	Address	Proposed Application Details	Comments
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SMD/2024/0004	Innova Renewables Developments Limited Land at Blythe House Farm Upper Tean	EIA Screening Opinion	The proposed solar farm would be adjacent to the previously approved Blythe Solar Farm development SMD/2022/0160 and would be operated as an extension to that solar farm and also requires changes to that Development. The Development comprises two parcels of land one to the north of 6.46 hectares and one to the south of 16.02 hectares with an adjacent area measuring 5.44 hectares identified for ecological mitigation. As per the requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 each application (or request for a screening opinion) should be considered on its own merits. There are occasions, however, when other existing or approved development may be relevant in determining whether significant effects are likely as a consequence of a proposed development. The local planning authorities should always have regard to the possible cumulative effects arising from any existing or approved development. An application should not be considered in isolation if, in reality, it is an integral part of a more substantial development. In such cases, the need for Environmental Impact Assessment must be considered in the context of the whole development. Environmental Impact Assessments play a crucial role in identifying and evaluating the potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed development. By proactively identifying these impacts, developers can adopt measures to mitigate them or modify project designs to minimise or completely avoid adverse effects. This proactive approach aids in the protection of natural habitats, preservation of biodiversity, and maintenance of air and water quality. Furthermore, the Environmental Impact Assessment often involves public consultation and engagement, providing an opportunity for the public to participate in the decision-making process enabling individuals to voice their concerns regarding the environmental impacts of the solar farm and ensuring that local communities have a say in decisions that could significantly affect their environment and overall quality of life. Checkley Parish Council are therefore of the opinion that in this instance an Environmental Impact Assessment is necessary as this Development falls within Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 specifically industrial installations for the production of electricity, steam and hot water and the area of the development exceeds 0.5 hectare and furthermore this Development together with the previously approved development would result in cumulation of impacts and it would represent the best interests of the local community and Developer.