

Implementation Date: 01 September 2023

Template for Requesting Speaking Rights at the Planning Committee

The Protocol for the Operation of the Planning Committee provides for interested person(s) to register to speak on a planning application that is scheduled to be determined at the next meeting of the Planning Committee. This request must be received by the Planning Department no later than 10am on the Monday before the Planning Committee meeting via email account planning@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk.

Planning Reference	LA01/2023/0728/F
Name	Paul McKernan (RPS - Agent) Grace McGlen (Dunluce Developments – Applicant)
Contact Details	Tel: _____ Email: _____
Support or Objection – please tick relevant box	Support ☒ Objection ☐
Written representation summarising key points to be addressed and supplementary information in support of your case (minimum font size 10 and maximum length two sides of A4 page). Dear Causeway Coast & Glens Planning Committee, RE: Planning Application reference: LA01/2023/0728/F - <i>Installation and operation of a 29.9mw solar farm, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure</i> Thank you for affording us the opportunity to speak in support of the above referenced planning application. On behalf of the Applicant RPS welcome the recommendation brought forward by Planning Officers to Approve the Application, having regard to the Area Plan and other material considerations. This recommendation has been informed by a robust application process involving significant consultation with a comprehensive range of statutory authorities. The suite of assessments which accompany the application demonstrates there are no unacceptable impacts associated with the development. All statutory consultees have provided	

substantive responses confirming they are content with proposals.
In addition:

- Alignment with Northern Ireland Energy Policy and Net Zero Targets - The proposal aligns with the Climate Change Act (NI, 2022) and Energy Strategy Action Plan (2023) which mandates a target of at least 80% electricity consumption from renewable sources by 2030. It is worth noting that this is a target, not a ceiling figure.
- Causeway Coast and Glens local economic Partnership- This project aligns with Causeway Coast and Glens Long Term Economic Priorities to “develop SOLAR PVC Farms to make the Borough one of the UK’s most sustainable regions by 2035; ensuring that sustainability and the development of a vibrant and growing economy go together”. As stated in the Councils Department of economy priorities response.
- Energy Diversification and Security of Supply - It contributes to energy security and diversification by providing a clean, indigenous and renewable energy source. Latest Department of the Economy data sets out for the 12 - month period between July 2024 and June 2025 only 43.1% of metered electricity consumption was generated from renewable sources in Northern Ireland – a 1.6% decrease on the previous 12 months. There is some way to go before meeting the 2030 targets.
- Carbon Offset - The application would help the Boroughs continued transition to a more sustainable, low carbon future, generating enough clean, renewable electricity to meet the demands of approximately 11,400 homes every year, offsetting c.16,000 tonnes of carbon emissions annually.
- Farm diversification – The proposal will result in a dual land use. Lands comprising the application site will continue to be grazed during the life-time of the proposal.
- Local Business- The project is being developed by company based in Coleraine with strong links to the local community. Dunluce Developments Limited are keen to see the local area prosper.
- Economic Benefits – There are significant economic benefits associated with the initial capital spend as well as annual contributions to the local exchequer in the form of rates - likely to be c.£150k per annum.

To summarise, the Planning Officer report confirms the project aligns with planning policy and other material planning considerations. We respectfully ask the Planning Committee to support the recommendation to Approve.

Yours Sincerely,

Paul McKernan (RPS)

Grace McGlen (Dunluce Developments)