

WICKHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIR: Cllr IVOR FRENCH

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Chair: Cllr Dick Jenkinson



MINUTES of the meeting of Wickham Market Parish Council Planning Committee held on Monday 28th July 2025 at 1900

- PL25: 21 Present from the Council:** Cllr. D Jenkinson (Chair), Cllr. Sue French, Cllr. Ivor French, Cllr. John Day, Cllr. Gloria Creasey, Leanne Castle (Deputy Clerk),
- PL25: 22 Present from the Public:** David Chenery
- PL25: 23 Open Public Forum session (3 minutes per person):** David Chenery raised the following points, having read the reports. Traffic impact regarding HGV re construction and maintenance. The road in Loudham is a single-track lane. No clear traffic control is covered, and there is concern about Chapel Lane serving as a diversion for vehicles unless clear signage is put in place to forbid access. He said he will raise the same issues at the Pettistree Parish Council extraordinary meeting about this planning issue on 13 August.
- PL25: 24 Apologies for Absence:** None
- PL25: 25 Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda:** None
- PL25: 26 Proposal to approve the draft minutes of the Wickham Market Parish Council Planning Committee of 2 July 2025 –** Accepted and signed by Cllr Jenkinson
- PL25: 27 Review and agree on comments for DC/21/5550/FUL**
Erection of a solar photovoltaic (PV) array, with a total export capacity of up to 21 MW. Each of the solar panels will be mounted on a fixed panel system. The panels are covered by high-transparency solar glass with an anti-reflective coating, which minimises glare and glint, while aiding in the maximum absorption of the available sunlight. The panels are dark grey/blue in colour and are mounted on a frame of anodized aluminium alloy and galvanized steel. **Site address:** Land at Park Farm, Loudham Hall Road, Loudham, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP13 0NW. **Consultation expiry date: 7 August 2025** – There was a lengthy discussion and a review of what the High Court said regarding the heritage buildings and listed buildings that are close to the proposed development site. The working group of local village representatives met on 25th July 2025 (Cllr Dick Jenkinson wasn't able to attend) to discuss the application in detail. The Parish Council members were expecting to see some changes to the original proposal after the High Court decision. They discussed protecting the area on either side of the River Deben, the footpaths around and through the proposed solar park, and the visibility of the site from various locations. There was discussion about the amount of maintenance and construction traffic that may cut through Wickham Market to reach and leave the site.
Objection. This objection is to be loaded onto the East Suffolk Website. Wickham Market Parish Council still objects; we believe the new application still contravenes the local plan policies. SCLP9.1 Low Carbon and Renewable Energy. SCLP10.1 Biodiversity and Geodiversity and SCLP10.4 Landscape Character. A detailed letter showing how the policies are contravened will be provided in a separate letter. The footpaths along the River Deben valley are a valuable amenity for parishioners and visitors to enjoy the fauna, flora, and landscape. The amended planning application hasn't addressed this. Furthermore, we

see no physical changes to the design to mitigate the impact on the heritage and listed buildings within the site's immediate location, as per the concerns raised by the High Court. There isn't an adequate strategy to mitigate or cope with traffic congestion during maintenance or construction, considering the width of the lane and the size of the vehicles. Chapel Lane is a designated 'quiet lane' leading into Wickham Market, and it isn't suitable for maintenance traffic. All Cllrs. were happy with the comments, objections and the letter.

PL25: 28 Date of next meeting: To be arranged as required
Meeting finished at 8.30pm