

Agenda Item 11 – Common Solar Farm Funds – Q&A

Emma

I have responded below

Kind regards

Ian

Ian Burbidge

He / Him

Head of Finance – Technical

Finance

Swindon Borough Council

www.swindon.gov.uk

Dear Ian

Thank you for the email and supporting letter, I have passed this to the Chairman and will add to our Dec full council agenda for comment / approval.

To clarify, please can you answer the following:

- Is the only restriction “Community Benefit” i.e. similar to CIL funds, we can allocate the funds as agreed by the parish council and they can agree the specific parameters of what the community benefit is.
There is no specific definition of Community Benefit in the lease agreement, this would be left to the Parish to decide.
- Are there any time restraints on allocation, i.e. expiry dates?
No expiry dates apart from the need to report back on the use twice a year.
- Interest accrued from 2016 (7 years) – the parish would expect a fair proportion to be transferred.
The requirement for the solar farms to make a community payment doesn’t include any requirement for them to pay around accrued interest and therefore there is no interest to passport through to the Parish.
- Ref *“This is subject to receiving a 6 monthly update around how these funds, and any future funds, have been used as both companies are required to report on this aspect”*.
Will SBC be in receipt of all ongoing funds or will future funds be paid to the parish council as a direct beneficiary?
The contract specifies SBC as the recipient of the funds, these will then be transferred to the Parish once they are received.
- Is there a contact that we report back to on allocated use of funds, is this SBC or do we report back to the Farmers?
The reports will need to be sent to myself so that I can forward them to the companies that own the solar farms

- What funds are likely to be expected each year, is there an annual estimated income that has been reached previously or to be expected?

The £68k has accrued over the preceding 7 years, although there is no guarantee implied or given that income will continue at this rate. The income is reliant on the operational performance of the solar farms which is dependent on a number of factors e.g. Weather, plant performance levels, energy market fluctuations. A very broad estimate would be around £8k to £10k pa

Many thanks in advance,

Kind Regards,

Emma Freemantle
Clerk to the Council



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