We're excited to tell you that we have resubmitted the planning application for Freshford School solar panels. We've worked hard to amend the design to be more in keeping with the local surroundings.

The number of panels has been reduced in order to achieve as discreet an arrangement as possible. The mounting system is proposed to be an 'in-roof' system, which will result in a subtle installation with the panels set virtually flush with the surrounding slate tiles.

Please see the visual mock up of the updated planning application and some reasons as to why this should go ahead.

The most successful applications are thosethat have local support, with detailed reasons as to why this should be supported.

Every single comment of support really helps to add weight behind this solar initiative and every supportive response is read by the planning officer. You don't need to state all of the suggestions below, but if your responses could stick to the planning issues, it would help hugely.

Below are some statements you could use, amend or add to when submitting comments to support the application, but **please put it in your own words if possible and do not copy and paste.**

We would also remind you that B&ES have declared a climate emergency with the target of being carbon neutral by 2030. If it goes to committee, councillors may be more interested in comments that hold them to account.

Thank you so much for continued support.

We really can't do this without you. Thank you!

The Solar Team

Click on the following link to register your support:

https://isharemaps.bathnes.gov.uk/data.aspx?requesttype=parsetemplate&template=DevelopmentControlApplicationComments.tmplt&basepage=data.aspx&Filter=^refval^=%2719/03025/FUL%27&SearchLayer=DCApplications&SearchField=refval&SearchValue=19/03025/FUL

Useful comments

B&NES has declared a Climate Emergency declaration and stated the Council will provide the strategic community leadership needed to enable our communities to achieve 100% clean energy across all sectors in Bath & North East Somerset by 2030.

The proposed application will contribute towards this target.

The National Planning Policy Framework makes it explicitly clear that the planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, including supporting renewable and low carbon energy.

The application is in conformity with Local Plan and policy SCR4 which states that "the positive benefits of community energy schemes will be a material consideration in assessing renewable energy development proposals". The proposed application for the solar panels at Freshford School is a community led project, being driven by local parents (residents of Freshford and Limpley Stoke) and teachers of the school. It will benefit the children of the school both now and for the next 25 years, as well as reducing energy costs for the school – a key community asset.

The application is in conformity with policy CP1: Retrofitting Existing Buildings as it will involve the sensitive retrofitting of microrenewables, which the policy seeks to encourage and enable.

The application is in conformity with Policy CP3: Renewable Energy and delivery of the District's renewable electricity targets. It is clearly recognised by Government that it is the cumulative effect of small scale installations, in conjunction with large scale renewable developments that collectively can help to achieve targets.

The application is in conformity with SCR 2: Roof Mounted/Building –Integrated Scale Solar PV. Every effort has been taken to minimise the impact of the solar panels by :

- setting them into the plane of the roof which will serve to disguise their presence.

- employing low reflective facings to minimise the difference in the way light reflects of the roof surface.

- setting them well within the body of the roof to maintain a margin of existing slate roof covering.

- ensuring their layout is in conformity with good practice guidance.

The solar panels will not be highly visible due to their careful design and will not have an impact on the Conservation Area. They will only be visible from a very short stretch of the Tyning.

Bath and North East Somerset Council have confirmed that installing panels on the other south-west slope would comprise Permitted Development (with no need to obtain planning permission). This alternative roof option is however more visible than the proposed south east facing roof, particularly in the context of the Conservation Area. Whilst the use of the south east facing roof is an option that remains open to the school, it is the school's desire to minimise any potential visual effects. In the interests of minimising effects on the Conservation Area, the south east option is preferable and should be approved.

The proposal will be deliver significant**public benefit**, including:

1) Environmental benefits: through the generation of renewable energy electricity it will directly reduce the school's carbon emissions.

2) Economic benefits: most heating within the school is provided by electric panel heaters (not night storage) making the school an environment where solar energy will have maximum impact in reducing the school's total energy expenditure.

3) Social benefits: It will provide an education resource for the existing and future pupils of the school. The school could also become an exemplar for other schools to follow enabling them to take advantage of similar environmental, social and economic benefits