

Director of Highways and
Transportation
Kent County Council
Ashford Highway Depot
4 Javelin Way
Ashford
TN24 8AD



Mrs Alison Hooker
Parish Clerk
Memorial Hall
Goudhurst Road
Marden
Tonbridge
Kent
TN12 9JX
Tel: 01622 832305
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Date: 8th August 2022

Dear Sir

Application: MBC/22/501335/FULL

Location – Land North of Little Cheveney Farm, Sheephurst Lane, Marden, Kent

Proposal – Installation of a renewable energy led generating station comprising of ground-mounted solar arrays, associated electricity generation infrastructure and other ancillary equipment comprising of storage containers, access tracks, fencing, gates and CCTV together with the creation of woodland and biodiversity enhancements

Marden Parish Council has read your comments in your letter to Maidstone Borough Council dated 11th July 2022 on the above application and thank you for stating that Plain Road is not a suitable option to route traffic to the site together with making the applicant aware of avoiding school times along Goudhurst Road. However, Cllrs are concerned about using the B2079 through the village of Marden as an alternative route due to the following:

Narrowness of the B2079 junction of Maidstone Road and High Street; many vehicles are often parked around this junction causing severe problems for HGVs turning into and out of Maidstone Road;

Major congestion at all times through the centre of the village in High Street and Church Green;

Goudhurst Road through the village gets congested not just at school times due to the high number of HGVs already travelling through the village due to the 7.5 tonne weight restrictions on other roads and lack of parking restrictions at the southern end of the road;

Sheephurst Lane (from B2079 junction) to the river crossings is very narrow and has several bends. The road across the river is single track and there is very little space to pull over to allow oncoming traffic, additionally the road is used regularly by farm traffic and buses.

Office Opening Times:
Mondays, Tuesdays & Fridays 10am - 12 noon
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Cllrs, therefore, ask KCC Highways to reconsider their suggested route to a more suitable route by redirecting site traffic via the A229, B2079, Underlyn Lane, Green Lane, B2162 and onto Sheephurst Lane from the other end.

Yours faithfully

Alison Hooker

Mrs Alison Hooker

cc. MBC Planning Department
County Cllr Lottie Parfitt-Reid
Borough Cllr David Burton
Borough Cllr Claudine Russell
Borough Cllr Annabelle Blackmore