

Bishop Wordsworth's CE Grammar School for Boys : Solar Panels - please read

4 December 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians

We are in the process of applying for permission to mount an array of 69 solar PV panels on the southern aspect of the Sixth Form roof. The planning application has been submitted by a contractor, Green Nation, and the business model is simple the contractor puts up the capital, installs the array, and receives the feed-in tariff; we enjoy the energy savings.

The available space only permits an array capable of generating 18KW, which is the minimum feasible size (in fact it is below the usual minimum of 30KW). Regrettably, the Conservation Officer is proposing a reduction in the number of panels which would render the scheme non-viable.

If you are minded to support the scheme (in full with all 69 panels *it's all or nothing*), you can view the proposal online on Wiltshire Council's website (Planning Application No 14/10688/FUL) at <http://services.wiltshire.gov.uk/UniDoc/Document/Search/DSA,845530> and comment at <http://planning.wiltshire.gov.uk/Northgate/PlanningExplorer/PLComments.aspx?pk=845530>. The key point is that if the Planning Authority goes with the Conservation Officer's concerns (ie demands a reduction in the number of panels), the scheme will not get off the ground.

Please feel free to make the point that there are significant educational benefits associated with solar PV, quite apart from the obvious financial savings. It is worth noting that this scheme is in line with Government direction regarding the adoption of solar by schools. Most recently, on 4 November, the PUS at the Dept for Energy and Climate Change (DECC), Amber Rudd, wrote to schools encouraging them to adopt solar PV (letter [here](#)). She pointed out that the benefits to schools are not only financial and environmental, but also educational: "*being able to communicate to the pupils the benefits of sustainability through a working example of renewable technology in their own*

school will provide more direct engagement, particularly in the subjects of geography, science, design and technology and IT. This can also help to inspire the wider community to take action to address climate change."

More background on the Government's push for schools to adopt solar PV is available in DECC's leaflet, "Power to the pupils - Solar PV for schools", [here](#).

Your support would be greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully

Justin Moore
Bursar
