Planning Statement for Proposed Solar Panel Installation

Planning Statement - Liston House Faygate Lane Faygate West Sussex - DC/25/0604

Planning Statement for Proposed Solar Panel Installation

Site Address: Liston House, Faygate Lane, Faygate, West Sussex
Applicant: Clinton Gadd
Proposal: Solar panel array on agricultural land
Local Planning Authority: Horsham District Council

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1. Introduction

This planning statement supports an application for the installation of solar PV panels at Liston House, Faygate Lane, Faygate, West Sussex within the jurisdiction of Horsham District Council. The proposal seeks to support the transition to renewable energy in line with both national and local climate objectives, while ensuring that visual and environmental impacts are minimized.

2. Site Description

The site is in a semi-rural/agricultural/residential setting. The proposed solar panels will be ground-mounted, facing south, no higher than 2.5m, and sited to minimize visibility from public highways and neighbouring properties.

3. Proposed Development

The proposal includes the installation of:

- **16 solar PV panels**
- **Mounted on the ground**
- **Covering an approximate area of 32 square metres**
- **With minimal or no alteration to the existing land or structures**
- **No trees will be felled and no existing habitats disturbed.**
- **The system will not require mains water or drainage services.**

4. Planning Policy Context

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2023):

- **Paragraph 152:** Emphasises the need to support the transition to a low-carbon future in a changing climate, including encouraging renewable energy development.
- **Paragraph 158:** States that when determining planning applications for renewable and low carbon development, local planning authorities should:
    - Not require applicants to demonstrate the overall need
    - Approve applications if impacts are (or can be made) acceptable

Horsham District Planning Framework (HDPF 2015):

- **Policy 37 – Sustainable Construction:** Encourages proposals that improve energy efficiency and support renewable energy systems.
- **Policy 26 – Countryside Protection:** While protecting the rural character, this policy allows essential development that supports rural economic needs and sustainability.
- **Policy 24 – Environmental Protection:** Ensures that development does not cause unacceptable harm to the natural environment and local amenity. This application respects this by minimising visual and ecological impact.
- **Policy 35 – Climate Change:** Encourages development proposals that contribute positively to mitigating the effects of climate change and enhance energy efficiency.

Horsham Climate Action Strategy (2022–2025):
The proposal directly supports the council's goals to reduce carbon emissions and increase local energy generation from renewable sources.

5. Impact Considerations

- **Visual Impact:** Panels will be positioned to reduce visibility from nearby roads and public viewpoints.
- **Ecological Impact:** No ecological designations are affected. No protected species will be harmed.
- **Amenity:** There will be no noise, glare, or disruption to neighbours.
- **Heritage & Conservation:** The site is not within a conservation area or near listed buildings.

6. Conclusion

The proposed development is in accordance with national and local planning policy objectives to promote sustainable energy use and reduce carbon emissions. The visual and environmental impacts are minimal and do not outweigh the considerable sustainability benefits.