

# HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL



## *Summer 2026 Newsletter*

*Imagine being surrounded by thousands of panels this size!*



If you want a small taster of what might be coming our way if the East Pye mega solar application is approved have a look at the mock up panel at the Fritton Crossroads where the Krons meets the B1527. The development would fill around 100 large fields and meadows with solar panels up to 4.5 metres in height - that's even higher than the mock up panel. The site area covers a 15km stretch of countryside from Great Moulton to Brooke and Seething and Hempnall is pretty much in the middle - we would be surrounded by these monsters and associated infrastructure including security fencing and cameras, sub stations, inverter buildings, new tracks and roads. The total site area included within the site order limit is 1212.3 hectares - that's almost 3,000 acres equivalent to 2,000 football pitches. Over 20 villages and 30km of public rights of way would be directly affected. Lovely country lanes such as Fairstead Lane would be modified and widened to accommodate very large HGV loads. If the application is approved our whole area will be unrecognisable and our way of life permanently blighted.

Following Hempnall Parish Council's meeting in April 2026 at which 100% of 209 people attending were against the East Pye Solar scheme, the parish council is acting in accordance with parishioners' wishes and will work hard to oppose the application.

While the Planning Inspectorate has accepted this application for Examination and the time when you can register as an Interested Party has passed the date when the decision will be made on whether the application should be permitted is some way ahead. Planning Inspectors will look carefully at all the submissions before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Energy (currently Ed Miliband) as to whether a consent order should be approved or refused. The final decision rests with the Secretary of State.

The Planning Inspectorate will shortly produce a timetable covering the Examination period and it will include dates for a hearing and a deadline for the submission of fuller written representations. These written representations provide those who have registered as Interested Parties with an opportunity to explain their objections in greater detail . We encourage all of you who have registered to complete written representations and expand on your concerns. Further information can be found at:

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN0110014>

## *New bus shelter*

Hempnall Parish Council together with Norfolk County Council have funded a new bus shelter on Broaden Lane. We hope you enjoy the shelter be it from rain, wind or maybe even sun!



Councillor/Clerk	Telephone No.	Email address
David Hook – Chairman – Tree Warden	01508 498187	hookd74@yahoo.com
Phil Bates – Footpath Officer, Data Protection Committee	07957 803120	phil.bates@hempnallpc.org
Joan Cann	01508 498743	joan.cann1944cann@btinternet.com
Richard Delf -Vice Chairman - Playing Field Liaison	01508 499788	richard@delfsgarage.co.uk
Hamish Rose	01508 498486	hamishandgeorgina@btinternet.com
Mike Turner- Tree Warden - SAM2 Officer - Highways Liaison	01508 499423	mike.turner45@btinternet.com
Peter Workman - Playing field Liaison	01508 830266	pworkman@hempnallpc.org
Ian Nelson - Clerk	01508 498467	theclerk@hempnallpc.org

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Write to the Clerk at Karinya, Bungay Rd, Hempnall, Norwich, NR15 2NG. [theclerk@hempnallpc.org](mailto:theclerk@hempnallpc.org)