

**Planning Committee Meeting Coventry City
Council Thursday 18 December 2025**

Application: PL/2025/0001922 – Lentons Lane Solar Facility

Sheila Cooper – Acting Chair

On behalf of the Warwickshire Solihull and Coventry Local Access Forum

This financially speculative concept proposal is as deeply flawed today as when refused in 2024. Nothing has changed. No special circumstances are demonstrated; critical inaccuracies, anomalies, and unanswered questions persist.

Overwhelming perceptions of bias, including institutional bias and predetermination, arising from a commercial partnership where expectations of financial success are wholly dependent on securing planning approval have been blatant, throughout the planning process.

As landowner, landlord, energy company partner and decision-maker, combined with an institutional lack of openness and transparency makes the Council directly accountable for undeniable serious pecuniary and non-pecuniary conflicts of interests.

Initiation of independent protocols to protect the Council from legal challenges arising from its triple roles of landowner, landlord and commercial energy partner, where financial gain is dependent on planning approval, were not triggered.

The statutory role of decision-maker and roles of landowner, landlord and commercial partner, have created an insurmountable legal dilemma of undeniable pecuniary and non-pecuniary conflicts of interest, bias and predetermination. In favouring partnership-based financial interests and profit over its

responsibility as an impartial decision-maker and fair landlord, the Council failed to recognise and manage unlawful conflicts independently leaving any decision to approve irreparably compromised, unsound and wide open to legal challenge.

Coventry's shameful treatment of their tenant farmer of 60 years including misrepresentation of precedent set in Lord Scarman's 1985 judgement which said '*Personal circumstances of an occupier, personal hardship and the difficulties of businesses which are of value to the character of a community are not to be ignored in the administration of planning control. It would be inhuman pedantry to exclude from the control of development the human factor*', was a wilful attempt, by the Council, to sabotage the planning decision, by discounting personal hardship.

The premature loss of farming, as a way of life and livelihood,

engineered by Coventry, demonstrates a ruthless control over their tenant farmer, his life and, by cause and effect, the lives of local residents and communities. Personal hardship should be considered an 'exceptional circumstance' in any fair-minded determination of this application today.

The Warwickshire Solihull and Coventry Local Access Forum respectfully advise the Planning Committee to **REFUSE** the application for the reasons stated above, in 86 objections and from speakers today.