

Toft Newton Parish Council

Website: <https://toft-newton.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk>

Date 20th February 2025

Contemporaneous notes – Community Energy Project Meeting

Meeting held: Online.

Attendees: Steve Leary, West Lindsey District Council
Florence Newman, Midlands Net Zero
Michael Lewis, Toft Newton Parish Council

I had requested a meeting with WLDC, Steve Leary invited Florence Newman to join the meeting.

I was advised that the parish of Toft Newton had been considered as part of a WLDC survey in 2021, when they were looking for sites for solar energy installations.

The former RAF Faldingworth Airbase was considered as a possible location, and would be the only site suitable locally for use.

I was also advised about a Community Energy Project using 90-120 solar panels would not be funded as it would not be viable, as the income generated from the solar panels would not cover the installation costs during the lifetime of the solar panels.

Unless RAF Faldingworth could be used, there would be no option for a Community Energy Project in the Toft Newton parish.

As the Clerk, I surmised that any such project would either need to be lead by Faldingworth Parish Council, West Lindsey District Council or Lincolnshire County Council. Toft Newton Parish Council would not see any benefit from a Community Energy Project in another parish.

Things to consider further down the line include possible funding from the soon to be 'vested' Greater Lincolnshire Combined Counties Authority, or longer term; the Community Funds that will be available via the solar farms proposed within the West Lindsey area, including but not limited to Tillbridge Solar (located around Harpswell), Cottam Solar Project (located around Corringham) or West Burton Solar Project (located to the west of the River Trent in Bassetlaw).

Conclusion:

A Community Energy Project is no longer an option for Toft Newton Parish Council to continue to explore due to there being no funding accessible and the project being too small to have any benefit to the parish.

Michael Lewis, Dip Psy (ICS), CertHE (Glouc) (He / Him)
Parish Council Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer / Proper Officer