

Trerice Solar Farm Appeal – Community Consultation Report & Advisory on Community Benefits

1. Executive Summary

This report summarises the findings of the Trerice Solar Farm community consultation and provides an advisory section on potential community benefits should the planning application be granted at appeal.

The consultation demonstrates a very strong and consistent level of opposition to the proposed development, with overwhelming concern about landscape harm, further industrialisation of St Dennis, and cumulative impacts on village identity, health, and the rural environment.

A clear democratic mandate has been given for the Parish Council to continue opposing the application.

2. Background and Purpose of Consultation

The consultation was undertaken to gather community views on the Trerice Solar Farm proposal ahead of the planning appeal.

Consultation period: 21 July 2025 – 16 January 2026

Total responses: 60

The purpose was to:

- Understand levels of support or opposition to the proposal
- Identify key concerns and themes
- Provide an evidence base to inform the Parish Council's position at appeal

3. Headline Results

Question	Result
Oppose or strongly oppose the original proposal	90% (54 residents)
Very concerned about landscape impacts	83.3% (50 residents)
Very concerned about further industrialisation	90% (54 residents)
Support Parish Council continuing to oppose at appeal	93.3% (56 residents)

These results show exceptionally strong and consistent opposition, with landscape protection and industrialisation emerging as the dominant concerns.

4. Key Themes from Community Feedback

4.1 Protecting Landscape and Green Fields

Residents expressed deep concern about the loss of open countryside, agricultural land and visual amenity:

“Stop taking all the fields/countryside away... Leave things as they are! It’s eye pollution.”
“These green fields are our sanctuary; I do not wish to see them covered in glass.”
“Not green field sites and not more for our immediate locality.”

Key message: The proposal is seen as an unacceptable loss of valued countryside and some of the best agricultural land in the area, undermining food security and rural character.

4.2 Over-Industrialisation and Cumulative Impact

There is strong feeling that St Dennis is already disproportionately affected by major infrastructure and industrial development, including the incinerator, Imerys, Cornish Lithium and the brickworks at Gavergan.

“This area has already suffered enough from industrialisation...”
“It’s time to stop all these industries using St Dennis as a dumping ground.”
“It’s really sad. First the incinerator and now this – whatever next?”

Key message: The solar farm is viewed not in isolation but as part of a growing industrial corridor that is eroding the village’s rural identity and wellbeing.

4.3 Village Identity, Fairness and Community Wellbeing

Residents feel that St Dennis is being unfairly targeted and that the village’s needs are being overlooked.

“We are proud of our village and don’t want to be treated like we don’t exist.”
“St Dennis deserves better.”

Concerns also include:

- Health and environmental effects of cumulative industrial development
- Decline in quality of life and sense of place
- Perception that benefits flow elsewhere while impacts are local

4.4 Alternative Approaches to Renewable Energy

Many residents support renewable energy in principle but object to this location and scale.

Common suggestions include:

- Solar panels on new buildings and rooftops
- Solar on industrial buildings, car parks and brownfield land
- Smaller, farm-scale renewables that do not remove productive farmland

Key message: The opposition is not anti-renewable; it is about the right development in the right place.

5. Conclusion and Community Mandate

The consultation shows:

- Overwhelming opposition to the Trerice Solar Farm proposal
- Very high concern about landscape harm and further industrialisation
- A clear and strong mandate for the Parish Council to continue opposing the application at appeal

The community's position is consistent, robust and well-evidenced, and should be given significant weight in the appeal process.

6. Advisory Section: Community Benefits if the Appeal is Allowed

While the Parish Council and community strongly oppose the proposal, it is prudent to identify meaningful community benefits should the appeal be granted. These should reflect the scale of impact, the cumulative industrial burden on St Dennis, and the need for long-term, tangible improvements.

6.1 Principles for Community Benefits

Any community benefit package should:

- Go well beyond standard token payments
- Be long-term and legally secured
- Address the specific harms and pressures experienced by St Dennis
- Complement (not duplicate) existing funds from the incinerator community fund

6.2 Suggested Community Benefit Areas

A. Landscape, Environment & Biodiversity

- Major off-site landscape enhancement fund for St Dennis
- Woodland planting, hedgerow restoration and green corridors
- Long-term funding for biodiversity monitoring and management
- Public access improvements: footpaths, viewpoints, green spaces

B. Health, Wellbeing & Community Facilities

- New or upgraded community hub / village hall facilities
- Long-term funding for health and wellbeing projects
- Improvement to Outdoor recreation: play areas, multi-use games areas, walking and cycling routes

C. Infrastructure & Village Improvements

- Significant contribution to roads, pavements and traffic safety
- Public transport improvements or community transport scheme
- Village centre enhancements and public realm improvements

D. Energy & Cost-of-Living Support

- Community-owned solar or battery project for St Dennis
- Discounted or free electricity for local households
- Fuel-poverty support and home energy efficiency grants

E. Skills, Jobs & Young People

- Local apprenticeship and training programme linked to renewables
- Funding for youth services and education projects
- Support for local businesses and social enterprises

6.3 Scale and Governance of the Fund

Given the scale and cumulative impact, a community benefit fund should be:

- Substantial (multi-million pound over the life of the project)
- Index-linked and secured for the full operational period
- Managed by an independent local trust with strong community representation
- Transparent, accessible and aligned with local priorities

7. Final Recommendation

The Parish Council should:

1. Continue to robustly oppose the Trerice Solar Farm appeal using this evidence base
2. Emphasise cumulative impact, landscape harm, food security and village identity
3. If the appeal is allowed, negotiate a comprehensive, long-term community benefit package that delivers real and lasting improvements for St Dennis and surrounding communities

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