

**PLANNING ADVISORY PANEL SOUTH - UPDATE SHEET****21 April 2020**

**Item 4 - The proposal is a 2 storey Public House. On the site of an old GP practice which has been demolished at 201 Hamilton Road, Felixstowe**

This application has been formally withdrawn at the request of the applicant.

**Item 9 - DC/20/0766/FUL. Install 60 new solar panels which will serve an existing dwelling, and change of use to extend the current residential curtilage of the dwelling into adjoining agricultural land within its ownership at The Old School House, The Street, Kettleburgh**

Additional correspondence from applicant:

I am in the fortunate position of owning a 5 acre field adjoining my house which provides me with the opportunity to make a personal contribution towards reducing greenhouse gases and improving the environment by becoming just about self-sufficient in power supply. An aspiration which, it so happens, is in-line with international, national and local policies. As a result of the cessation of the government's Feed-In Tariff scheme this proposal is solely for environmental benefit.

The proposed location of the panels is determined by three factors:

1. Visual intrusion.
2. A planning requirement for the location to be part of land that is contiguous with my existing residential curtilage.
3. Efficient operation of the panels, ie away from surrounding trees.

At a planning meeting of the Parish Council on 12<sup>th</sup> March, which I attended, the councillors paid close attention to the matter of visual intrusion. Their view was, like mine, strongly against the panels being in the position close to the road as this would provide the worst visual intrusion compared to the current view of grass and fruit trees. In fact, this location would be so visually intrusive that I promised the PC that I would not locate the panels there under any circumstances. In contrast, the PC were unanimously in favour of the proposed location at the top of the hill away from the road.

Whilst the LPA have supported the principle of installing the panels, their preferred location by the road has arisen, I believe, because they are considering the application through the lens of approving an area of land for change of use to "residential curtilage", rather than taking account of

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the actual intended usage. The requirement to have the panels located on an area of “residential curtilage” is a planning technicality. From my practical point of view the requirement to link the panel location to my existing residential curtilage is not necessary as the intervening strip of land will remain as it is now i.e. a grass field. I have no desire for it to be re-classified as “residential curtilage” other than because it may be required by planning technicalities.

The proposed location of the panels will be distant from the road and shielded by planting, it is not overlooked by any residencies, it has the unanimous support of the Parish Council and will make a meaningful contribution to environmental improvement. I sincerely hope that the planning advisory panel are minded to agree with the neighbourhood interest represented by the PC and approve my application.