

**Councillor John Williams – Cabinet Member for
Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy**

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Ref	Direct Line:	Please Ask For
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20th January 2026

Cllr Taiba Yasseen
Elected Member

Via email: taiba.yasseen@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Yasseen,

Council Meeting – Wednesday 14th January 2026

Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 14th January. I have set out your question and my response below.

Why did Council not require/guide the solar farm developers to hold consultation events within the directly affected villages (Brampton-en-le-Morthen, Harthill, and Todwick) rather than primarily outside these communities, ensuring local residents most impacted had accessible opportunities to engage and provide feedback on the solar farm proposals?

I can advise that prior to the public consultation events, the Council's local planning authority and Neighbourhoods team were consulted on the statement of community consultation. It was considered that the number and location of the proposed public drop-in sessions were sufficient to meet the consultation requirements for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects as defined in the Planning Act and included, amongst others, both Harthill and Todwick.

As I understand it, events were held at 8 different locations between 2nd and 15th October, including both Harthill and Todwick.

The Council will be responding to the Development Consent Order when it is submitted and will have an opportunity to respond to the Planning Inspectorate on the adequacy of consultation at this time.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,



**Councillor John Williams
Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy / Ward Councillor for Hooper**