



PLANNING NEWS — August 2024

The Planning Committee continues to consider submitted planning applications. This bulletin contains news relating to applications dealt with recently, decisions handed down, as well as proposed future action on some current applications.

Planning Applications and Updates:

TWBC

24/01768/FULL Land at Lower Ellenden Farm, Water Lane, Hawkhurst TN18 5AX – Development of solar array, battery storage & associated infrastructure (resubmission of 23/02059/FULL).

WKPS to OBJECT on same grounds as the previous two applications on this site.

24/01767/FULL Land at Netters Farm, Attwaters Lane, Hawkhurst (adjoins Benenden and Cranbrook parishes) TN18 5AT – Development of solar array, battery storage and associated infrastructure (resubmission of 22/01695/FULL). WKPS to OBJECT on same grounds as the previous two applications on this site.

MBC

24/502235 Mathurst Solar Farm Land West of Goudhurst Road, Staplehurst. The construction and operation of an 18MW solar photovoltaic (PV) farm and widened access to Goudhurst Road with associated infrastructure, including inverters, transformers, substations, security cameras, fencing, access tracks and landscaping.

This application is for 67 acres in the countryside south of Staplehurst. It is early days for comments. **WKPS will object.**

24/502793 Knoxbridge Farm, Knoxbridge, Frittenden, Cranbrook TN17 2BT. Change of use of egg production buildings to commercial uses within Classes B2 and B8, part demolition of building, removal of links between buildings, alterations to fenestration, installation of sustainable drainage systems, and landscaping.

This application from Friday's is to change the use of 13 buildings from caged chicken egg production to transport and storage. Highways have yet to comment. The application is opposed by both Frittenden and Staplehurst PCs, primarily due to lack of traffic information and the impact on surrounding properties. **WKPS will comment after further information is received.**

23/504118 Hook Farm Kings Lane Marden. Change of Use of 1 hectare (2.5 acres) of agricultural land to use as dog-walking paddock with associated 1.8m height fencing, gate and parking. Awaiting ecological survey. **MBC permitted 31st May 2024.**

Other Planning Matters/Information

The eight-week consultation on the government's proposed reforms to the NPPF (National Planning and Policy Framework) and other changes to the planning system closes on 24 September 2024:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-reforms-to-the-national-planning-policy-framework-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system>

IMPORTANT NOTE: The report above deals with actions planned as well as action already taken. Readers are asked to note that the opinions and action points are those expressed by the planning committee. They are not always the final decisions. Many items discussed at meetings require further research before we reach a final decision on action to be taken.