

Parish Council Forum Meeting Report (Draft)

Monday 20 April, 19:30 – 21:00

Heptonstall Social & Bowling Club, Acre La, Hebden Bridge HX7 7LT

Attendance

Organisation	Membership
Calderdale Energy Park	Christian Egal Donald Mackay Ashley Robinson Christopher Wilson Kevin Whitmore Ankit Jain
Wadsworth Parish Council	Cllr Jon Kimber – Forum Chair Cllr Jenny Shepherd Cllr Jonathan Salt
Heptonstall Parish Council	Cllr Susan Slater Cllr Colin Jackson
Blackshaw Parish Council	Cllr Jake Dyter Cllr Caroline Tiler-Ansell
Hebden Royd Town Council	Cllr K Butterick Cllr N Harvey
Oxenhope Village Council	Cllr Ken Eastwood Cllr Andrew Akhurst
Erringden Parish Council	Cllr Roger Greenwood
Haworth & Stanbury Village Council	Cllr Zoe Stead
Keighley Town Council	Cllr Andrew Judson
Trawden Forest Parish Council	Cllr Adrian Foulkes Cllr Jonathan Wiggins
Laneshaw Bridge Parish Council	Cllr Paul White Cllr Amanda Meachin
Briercliffe with Extwistle Parish Council	Cllr Pippa Lishman Apologies from Cllr Roger Frost
Worsthorne with Hurstwood Parish Council	Cllr Scott Cuncliffe
Denholme Town Council	Cllr Paul Golding
Colne Town Council	Cllr Andy Bell Cllr David Cockburn-Price

Agenda

Agenda Item	Timings
Welcome & Introductions	10 minutes
Purpose of Parish Forum & Terms of Reference	20 minutes
Overview of 2026 project design and statutory consultation process	30 minutes
Topics for future meetings	10 minutes
AOB	10 minutes

Minutes

Welcome & Introductions

Cllr Kimber opened the meeting, noted prior engagement since October 2023, and outlined that a parish survey (30% response rate) showed 93% opposition to Calderdale Energy Park, driven mainly by potential peat impacts and potential flood risk to Hebden Bridge. Parishes are not opposed to wind in principle, but to development on Walshaw Moor.

Cllr Kimber explained the Forum seeks constructive dialogue, despite concerns about determination by the Secretary of State, to represent the views of parishioners and seek further information from the Calderdale Energy Park team.

Purpose of Parish Forum & Terms of Reference

KW outlined the purpose of the Parish Forum: ongoing engagement beyond the Statutory Consultation Period, shaping and strengthening the application as it is prepared for submission to the Planning Inspectorate.

Members were asked to review the draft Terms of Reference and provide comment.

It was agreed that future meetings will be accessible to Parish Forum members via Teams who are unable to attend in person.

It was agreed that Parish Forum members may propose specialist attendees via the Chair for specific topics (subject to relevance and agreement).

It was agreed that subject to revisions described above the Terms of Reference were approved.

Overview of 2026 project design and statutory consultation process

CE confirmed the Proposed Design has reduced from 41 to 34 turbines following feedback from non-statutory consultation in 2025 and further technical and environmental assessments. The revised layout subject to Statutory Consultation is not the final design, which will be progressed as further assessments are undertaken in 2026 and the results of Statutory Consultation is known.

Cllr Kimber reiterated his previous concerns about the timing and length of the statutory consultation process.

DM outlined principles underpinning the design for Calderdale Energy Park and the construction process: peat to be retained on site, access tracks and hardstands constructed to formation level using onsite won materials with imported hardstone for the upper and running surfaces. Some borrow pits required, and hydrology informing track and drainage design with potential rewetting benefits. Two site access points are proposed, with main access for bulk material deliveries and the wind turbine components from the north-west via Colne.

DM confirmed access road and highway works would take 6–9 months. Road improvements would include widening and visibility improvements and speed limits, with traffic management rather than full road closures (subject to agreement with the local Highways Authority). A Construction Traffic Management Plan will accompany the application, with contractor compliance enforced.

The eastern access from the A6033 and associated cable routes were outlined, including horizontal drilling to reduce disruption.

Road improvements in Oxenhope were welcomed as a community benefit.

Concerns were raised about uncertainty for residents on School Lane. AR confirmed route definitions are still evolving and landowner discussions will begin in the next 6–9 months. KW confirmed any route change would require further consultation.

Peat terminology was clarified: turbines are on DEFRA-classified deep peat, but in shallower areas than elsewhere. Concerns were raised about alignment with Natural England guidance. AR confirmed peat, ecology, BNG and compensation land plans are under review and must be acceptable to Natural England.

Heather management, fire risk and conduit placement were discussed; a management plan will be required and conduits would run alongside site tracks.

A fly-through was shown; turbine height is to scale although rotor diameter is not due to the software used.

Topics for future meetings

Future engagement was discussed.

It was agreed that the next Parish Forum meeting will take place on 12 May via Teams, with peat and hydrology/flood risk as priority topics, and that parishes will submit written questions in advance for response.

Further topics identified included noise impacts, communication with residents along the north-west route, Environment Agency engagement (confirmed as ongoing), flood modelling, and council resourcing.

AOB

Following a query by Cllr Kimber, CE and AR confirmed negotiations with Calderdale Council regarding a Planning Performance Agreement discussions are ongoing.

Cable routing through Denham was discussed. Voluntary land agreements are preferred, with CPO powers only as a last resort. Mitigation methods were outlined to minimise disruption.

Concerns were raised about removal of opposition signage from private land; the project team confirmed no involvement.

Cllr Kimber thanked attendees and closed the meeting at 21:09.