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Dear Planning Service,

Regarding your recent correspondence of our application FULL/2021/1872.

Please see below our statement of significance, and statement on the impact to the building and character.

Solar panels work by converting daylight into useable energy for the home or business, as such they need to be facing a direction in which they will capture as much daylight as possible. The solar panels proposed for this property are to be on the front south facing roof slope as shown in the layout, as this is the best location to capture the daylight required.

The panels themselves are intended to be mounted in an 'in-roof' framing system. This means that they will be flush into the slate roof, and not sit above the roof covering much like most standard domestic framing systems. The aesthetic of the roof wouldn't be harmed as these systems hide most of the unappealing design, leaving the panels flush to the area of slates surrounding (please find enclosed pictures of similar designs).

We believe that our previous solar panel installations have not decreased or harmed the character of any area, (and are less likely to do so using this in-roof system we have opted for), rather this would enhance the character of the area by showing others how our energy can be generated in a sustainable way, which we believe in our current climatic situation should be at the forefront of people's minds.

Please see below section for the Island Development Plan which we believe would be would help assist our application.

IDP Section 19.5.3 States – ***"In accordance with the spatial strategy of the Strategic Land Use Plan, the Island Development Plan directs the majority of new development to the Main and Local Centres and some Conservation Areas fall within these areas. Other Conservation Areas fall Outside of the Centres and are not likely to be subject to significant development pressure. In all Conservation Areas, however, development will need to be accommodated in order to provide for the social and economic development requirements of the Island, as identified within the Strategic Land Use Plan and supported by other policies in the Island Development Plan. When appropriately designed,***

development will conserve the special interest of the Conservation Area and can make a positive contribution, offering opportunities for enhancement of the special qualities of the particular Conservation Area.

Further to this, the panels themselves are not intended to replace the roof forever and the process can be reversed in the future quite easily, as such we would be happy with a condition being placed on the development of removal of equipment once no longer required as per IDP 20.2.10.

With regards to the IDP and particularly section 20.2.4 where the IDP sets out to enable the development and use of renewable energy, this development should be seen as an enhancement on the area and an enabler in The States of Guernsey's overall vision of enabling the production and supply of energy 20.2.2.

IDP 20.2.8 addresses the visual impact of solar panels in which it states "***The visual impact of any development for renewable energy production on the openness of the locality and the impact on neighbours, traffic, etc. will be considered carefully and in all cases, the Authority will have regard to the development being of an acceptable scale and siting, so as to minimise adverse impacts upon the landscape character, biodiversity and amenity of the location concerned.***"

Although the above IDP could be considered subjective, we believe that from the panels that we have installed that there has been very little to no adverse impact upon the landscapes character and have had no serious concern from the public. This would not affect neighbours, traffic, or the biodiversity of the area.

Most domestic solar panels installed throughout our island would need to be roof mounted, as this is the only viable option for a fair number of buyers, which can be due to space, and other performance decreasing aspects like shading.

Policy IP1 – a. States "***Proposals for installations for the harnessing of renewable energy, and ancillary and associated development, will be supported where: a. the development can be satisfactorily incorporated into the built form of an existing or proposed development, or is located on brownfield land;***"

This installation will be on an existing development.

We hope that we have shown that our development will not harm the character of the area in question, and in fact it may show the willingness of people in general to adopt new technologies and make these technologies a part of the history we are now creating.

Our development plans (while still small), will contribute to the ever-growing need for technologies to tackle the climate problems we face. We are looking at the bigger picture in terms of energy supply, as it is widely anticipated that to tackle our current climate problems most homes and businesses will require some form of renewable energy in the near future.

Yours Sincerely

Damien Gill
The Little Green Energy Company.