

BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr M Bamford
Blackthorns, Link Lane, Bentley IP9 2DP
Email: chair@bentleysuffolkparishcouncil.gov.uk

Clerk to the Council: Mrs J Scott
Whites Cottage, Heath Road, East Bergholt CO7 6RJ
E-mail: clerk@bentleysuffolkparishcouncil.gov.uk

10th October 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

Appeal Reference: APP/D3505/W/25/3370515

Appeal by Green Switch Capital

Location: Land at Grove Farm etc Bentley, Ipswich, Suffolk

As you may have seen from the representation documents on the application which will have been forwarded to the Inspectorate by Babergh DC, this proposal was opposed on numerous detailed grounds by Bentley Parish Council and also separately by large numbers of local people, some 60 or more grouped under the umbrella “Stop Grove Farm Solar”. Reasons for opposition go beyond those encompassed in the LPA’s 2 reasons for refusal.

The Parish Council met last week and resolved unanimously that it wished to participate in the forthcoming appeal (scheduled to start on 20 January, 2026) and to coordinate with other local parties in presenting its case formally as a Rule 6 party.

The Parish Council does not have the resources of Green Switch Capital (or the LPA), but it is intending to collaborate with other local objectors to present its case through an advocate and calling both expert and lay witnesses. Whilst this will inevitably occupy time at the inquiry, it is hoped that coordination and collaboration by local parties will result in an efficient use of inquiry time, avoid duplication and repetition and contribute to the smooth running of the inquiry.

At this stage, the application for Rule 6 status is made by Bentley Parish Council and the Stop Grove Farm Solar Group. We understand that the Stour and Orwell Society may also wish to join with us, but that they have to consider the matter with their Committee.

If Rule 6 status is granted, then we will proceed to draft a Statement of Case and seek to make a representative available for any Case Management Conference which may be convened. Given our limited resources and reliance upon unpaid volunteers, we hope that you will give us reasonable notice of any deadlines which need to be observed.

We look forward to hearing from you at the earliest opportunity.

Yours faithfully



*Joy Scott (Mrs)
Clerk – Bentley Parish Council*