

KNOWL GREEN SOLAR FARM, BELCHAMP ST PAUL

NOTE RE Damage to Roads by Contractors' Lorries

1. Construction of the solar farm began in earnest Dec 2025.
2. Contractors' lorries caused the following problems in Bakers Rd and Ovington: mud on road/damage to roadside and verges/congestion in Bakers Rd/hazards to local traffic. Many lorries drove through BSP village ignoring planning permission conditions to route via Tilbury and Ovington.
3. The roadsides were already in a poor state from potholes and broken edges due to inadequate maintenance by Essex C C of local roads subject to traffic by heavy agricultural vehicles and tankers. There was also an unusually high amount of rainfall in Jan and Feb which exacerbated the problems.
4. I received complaints from councillors and 3 parishioners.
5. On 15 Jan 2026 a non-compliance with conditions enquiry was instigated by Braintree D C planning enforcement. The officer was Oliver Mentessi. The enquiry planning reference is 26/00022/NCC3.
6. The officer held a site meeting on 18 Feb 2026 and the following was agreed with BSR's Director of Construction and the main contractor:
7. Road sweeping to be undertaken on site once per day;
8. A wheel washing machine to be installed to clean lorry wheels before they go onto public roads;
9. BSR to meet with Essex C C in due course to arrange repairs to damage to verges and road edges;
10. A local newsletter with updates and delivery schedules to be circulated to local residents;
11. Stop Go boards to be operated in Bakers Rd to assist traffic flow;
12. Reconfirmation by BSR to subcontractors of the approved route for delivery lorries. Breaches of the agreed route to be recorded and dealt with.
13. Iona Parker has also spoken to Braintree D C Planning and BSR about the matter.
14. Anecdotal evidence appears to indicate the contractor is implementing the planned improvements under the enforcement notice. Drier weather and reduced deliveries are also helping improve the situation.

JCD 25/2/26