

Ely Standard



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Plans to put region's largest solar farm in Wilburton

PLANS to build one of the UK's largest solar farms in Wilburton have been unveiled this week.

Cambridgeshire firm Abbey Renewables is putting the finishing touches on plans that could see a new £13 million, 35-acre solar farm built on the outskirts of the village.

Managing director Nick Sutton said the new farm would provide enough green electricity for about 1,200 homes, while still allowing the surrounding land to be used to graze livestock.

"We have been involved in the renewable energy sec-

tor for more than 20 years and are very excited by our plans for Wilburton solar farm, said Mr Sutton.

"We have been working on plans for the new farm for the last six months in light of new Government legislation, which has finally put us on a par with countries like Germany, Italy and Spain where this technology is already widespread.

"The Wilburton solar farm will be about 35 acres, which will make it one of the biggest in the country and certainly in Cambridgeshire. It is on a similar scale to one being considered in Bourn."

The farm itself will be

sited on land along Twenty Pence Road in the village and will be south facing for maximum sun exposure. According to Mr Sutton, there will be jobs created locally to help maintain the site and clean the panels, much of the technical work will be carried out by computers, however.

As well as the production of green power, more than 55,000 tonnes of CO2 will be saved over the 25-year lifespan of the farm. The final plans will be submitted to East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) by the middle of November.

Cllr Bill Hunt, who rep-

resents Wilburton, Had-denham and Stretham at Cambridgeshire County Council, said he remained cautious about the scale of the plans.

"It is a huge benefit to have a source of renewable energy but, of course, we have to bear in mind the potential impact on the landscape and the character of the area.

"My immediate reaction to these plans is one of caution but, nevertheless, I would like to find out more about them before I form an opinion."

The firm behind the plans is keen to hear the opinions

of local people and is running an open exhibition on November 11 at Wilburton Village Hall from 3pm-8pm. The exhibition will feature plans and drawings of the proposed farm and experts will be on hand to answer questions from residents.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Write to the Ely Standard at 38 Market Street, Ely, Cambs, CB7 4LS.

Email: editor@ely-standard.co.uk

'Luke who visited our school'



Commonwealth gold medallist Luke Folwell with Spring Meadow students Jade Watts, Aaron Butler, Jake Stamford and Eliza Jones.

SPRING Meadow infants and nursery school at High Barns in Ely took part in the Team Superschools Challenge last Friday when gymnast Luke Folwell visited.

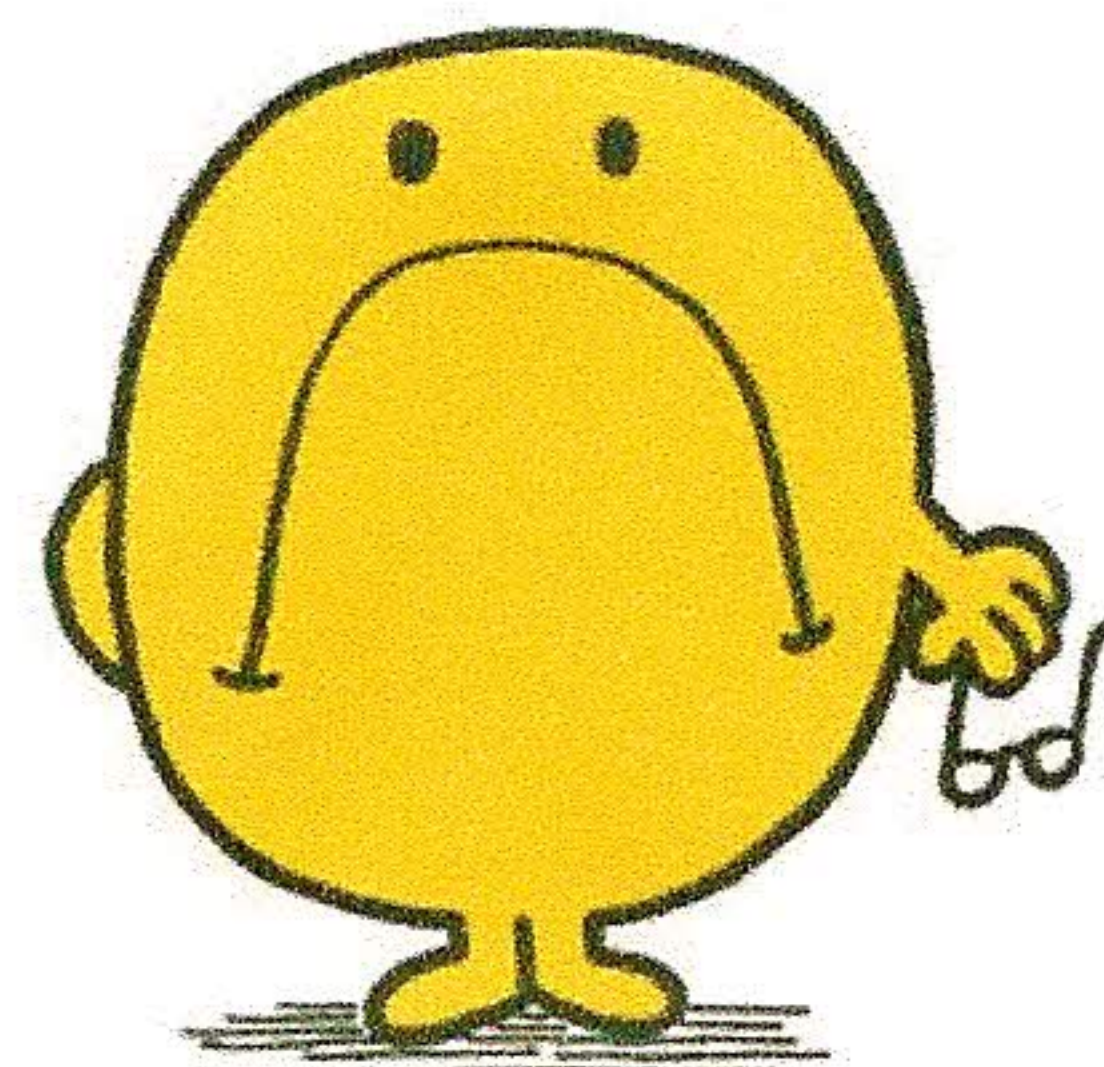
Luke, from Huntingdon, won the gold medal in the men's individual all-around gymnastics final at the Commonwealth Games in Delhi earlier this month.

During the event pupils took part in a fitness circuit with Luke, including Spotty Dogs, Leg Drives, Press-Ups and Star Jumps.

Luke gave a gymnastics

demonstration, answered questions and gave out autographs. He spoke of his Commonwealth Games experience and inspired the youngsters to follow in his footsteps.

The children gained sponsorship for the fitness circuit part of the event to raise money for a maypole, new wet play toys, games and activities and supporting the Team Superschools Award Scheme, which gives support to talented pupils in their chosen sport.



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