

SDSAG Constitution

1. Name

The name of the group shall be:
SDSAG, hereafter referred to as "the Group".

2. Status

The Group shall be a **non-profit, unincorporated association** of residents (of the Parishes of Easton, Letheringham and other local villages within Suffolk) ~~and~~. The Group shall not distribute profits or assets to members.

3. Purpose and Aims

The aims of the Group are to:

- Protect the countryside, Landscape biodiversity, rural heritage, and local community character and residential amenity of the local environment and the River Deben Valley.
- Raise awareness of and inform the local communities and the public more widely about the impacts of development on designated Countryside and High-Quality Farmland.
- Engage with local communities and to represent community views to Parish Councils, local authorities, planners and planning inspectors, national authorities, the media, and other relevant stakeholders.
- Oppose the proposed 49.9MW Solar Farm and 50MW battery energy storage system, development by Quintas Energy (UK) Ltd and or subsidiary or associated companies, to be sited in the Parishes of Letheringham and Easton, and any subsequent variation thereof.
- Promote alternative, more sustainable land use that respects the local environment and community.
- Engage with and make the case against proposed developments such as Deben Solar with Parish, District and County Councillors and with influencers or stake holders in bodies such as Historic England, Council for the Protection of Rural England etc.
- To retain professional support to and if necessary undertake any legal processes that may ensue to enable an effective response to proposed developments that have a negative impact on the local environment

4. Membership

- Membership is open to all individuals who support the aims of the Group.
- Members must act in accordance with the Group's Constitution.
The Group shall maintain a membership list (email or postal as appropriate).

5. Group Structure

The Group shall appoint Officers to undertake the following functions:

- Chair

- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Communications Officer (social media, website, leaflets and email notifications)

The Group will further form Four Working Groups (WG) to progress key activities:

1. **Finance -and (Fund Raising)** To drive and manage the fundraising activities on behalf of the group, manage the SDSAG bank account and signing authorities note (all monies will need to be authorised by two members of the Finance Group on receipt of a validated invoice).
2. **Planning Objections WG** to manage (i) the formulation and presentation of planning objections, (ii) any legal processes that ensue which the Group approves, and (iii) the selection and work of a Planning Consultant, Heritage Consultant, Landscape Consultant, Flood Consultant and any other Consultants and or, legal advisers as may be appropriate for these purposes.
3. **Community Engagement WG** to promote awareness and engagement with the villages and Influencers: will involve banners, door-to-door, village meetings, contact with neighbouring PCs, etc. Also responsible for communications via website(s), social media, email campaigns and fund-raising initiatives.
4. **Key Influencer Engagement WG** to engage with all known influencers, statutory consultees (e.g. Highways, PRow, cycle associations, BHS, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Ramblers, CPRE, English Heritage, UKSA etc.) and Councillors, Committee Members and County Councillors, and other influential members of the public to engender support to oppose the planning application.

6. Meetings

- The Group shall hold regular meetings, open to all members and of which notice shall be given to all members.
- A quorum shall be six members.
- Decisions shall be made by consensus where possible, or by 2/3 majority vote of those in attendance.
- Decisions shall be minuted.
- All contracts for services proposed to be entered into by the Group will require approval by the Group at a Group meeting or via a Group email.
- An AGM shall be held once a year to review activities, elect the key officers, and approve financial accounts. General meetings may be called by the Chair at other times, acting with the written support of six other members of the Group.

7. Finances

- The Treasurer will operate the SDSAG Community Bank Account on behalf of the Group. Both the Treasurer and Chairman are able to manage signing authorities. The Treasurer will hold a debit card for authorised purchases if needed.
- Appended to this Constitution document are the NatWest Bank applicable terms and conditions for the SDSAG Community Bank account to which the Group undertake to comply.
- The accounts will be kept on a simple “Receipts and Payments” basis with a record of payments and receipts held by the Treasurer.

- As validated invoices are presented, the Treasurer will pay the same out of monies in the account or if the monies (in the account) are insufficient, by requesting from those that have pledged to underwrite Group costs a pro rata sum that will be transferred to the Group account. Details of the sums pledged are recorded in the minutes of meetings or in separate funding commitments. Such requests shall take account of monies provided in response to previous such requests, so that no one shall be requested to transfer more than the sum he or she pledged.
- The Treasurer will provide the group with an up-to date account of the Group's financial position at each meeting.
- The group may raise funds through donations, fundraising events, or grants in addition to the monies pledged by individuals.
- Funds shall be used only for activities supporting the Group's aims, and approval must be given by the Group before any financial commitment is made.
- The Treasurer shall keep accurate financial records and report to members at the AGM.
- The Treasurer will maintain a tally of the monies pledged by individuals. The individuals that have pledged to underwrite costs will need to understand that unless other sources of income become available that it is unlikely that they will be reimbursed.

8. Conduct and Accountability

- The Group shall operate democratically, transparently, and respectfully.
- No member shall use their role or the Group's name for personal gain or to promote unrelated issues.
- Any external, public written communication to be sent or published by the Group must be approved by the Group in advance.
- The Group shall remain non-party-political. However, this does not prevent the group from canvassing support from multiple political parties that support the Group's aims.

9. Amendments to the Constitution

- This Constitution may be amended at a General Meeting, provided at least 7 days' notice is given to all members and two-thirds of those present approve the changes.

10. Dissolution

- The Group may be dissolved by a two-thirds vote at a General Meeting.
- Any remaining funds shall be donated to a local environmental or community cause, as decided by the members.

Agreed and approved by the Group

17 February 2026