**A Brief Summary of Sir Geoffrey Cox’s surgery**

The MP for Torridge held a surgery on 19th September which mainly focussed on the planning application for Bulworthy Farm.

A presentation was given by the Action Group on behalf of the audience, which numbered around 60 residents of all three affected parishes. This was a concise outline of the main objections to the plan, and Sir Geoffrey was sympathetic to the views put forward.

In his answer to this presentation, and subsequent detailed questions, he announced that he would be placing his own objection on the planning portal. This was despite his being an MP, which would normally preclude this course of action. He stated that as this was part of a much wider subject affecting the nation as a whole, he was therefore able to proceed with this action.

He would also be meeting with Devon Highways and the Torridge planning authority regarding several contentious aspects of the proposal, including road access and safety, and the high probability that once built, there would not in fact be any connection to the National Grid due to capacity constraints at the Alverdiscott substation.

He quoted Professor James Lovelock (he of the Gaia hypothesis) who said that solar arrays were “an irrelevance” in terms of reliable future power supply, and also expressed concern that the democratic process was being overridden by the government in pursuit of an ideological commitment to net zero.

He emphasised that comments on the application must keep to the established planning parameters in order to be taken into account.

In conclusion, he promised to come back to the parish in 2-3 months after having talked to all parties, including the developers, and gathered more detailed information on the project. It was highly unlikely that any joint meeting between Torridge and North Devon would take place before at least the New Year.