



Policy regarding the Installation of Solar Panels in Vigo Village

Approved: 20/03/2023

Reviewed: 15/05/23

All houses in Vigo Village are covered by restrictive Covenants*.

Part of Covenant 3 states that '*Residents may not erect additional buildings, or make any external additions or alterations to an existing building, without having first submitted plans and drawings to Vigo Parish Council, and having **received written approval** from Vigo Parish Council for the changes they wish to make*'.

The installation of solar panels on the roofs of houses constitutes a change to the appearance of the building.

However, Vigo Parish Council (VPC) has agreed that it will not require residents to apply for Covenant 3 permission if they wish to have solar panels fitted to their roofs and would encourage residents to consider the installation of these panels.

The reasons for these decisions are as follows:

1. VPC is strongly in favour of encouraging actions that may help reduce residents' contributions to global warming.
2. VPC strongly supports any action that residents can take to build in a future reduction in their energy bills.

Vigo Parish Council will not permit any reduction to Parish trees, solely for the purpose of removing shading from solar panels. It will, of course always agree to cut back trees that are overhanging a resident's property.

Residents may, of course, apply to Gravesham Borough Council, under the Tree Preservation Order, for permission to reduce the cover from trees that are in their ownership, i.e. on their land.

Temporary scaffolding will need to be erected when the solar panels are fitted. Permission will not be required for the erection of scaffolding, unless a section of the scaffolding needs to be sited on Parish Land

*For full details of the Covenants and how they are implemented by Vigo Parish Council please go to the Parish website on www.vigo-pc.gov.uk, then click on the Your Community tab and then Village Covenants.