

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Sunnica Energy Farm](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Response to ExA letter of 4 May 2022
Date: 18 May 2022 14:09:29
Attachments: [2022-05-18 Response to ExA letter.pdf](#)

Good afternoon,

Please find attached a letter in response to the ExA's letter of 4 May 2022, signed by the four host authorities:

- Cambridgeshire County Council
- East Cambridgeshire District Council
- Suffolk County Council
- West Suffolk Council

SCC's IP registration number is 20031377.

Kind regards,

Isaac Nunn

Senior Planning Officer (NSIPs)
Growth, Highways & Infrastructure
Suffolk County Council
Endeavour House
8 Russell Road
Ipswich IP1 2BX

Tel: 01473 265248

 [Planning, waste and environment](#)

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Date: 18 May 2022
Enquiries to: Andrew Phillips David Carford Julie Barrow Isaac Nunn
Tel: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Kean,

Re: Request by the Applicant in Respect of the Timing of the Preliminary Meeting / Examination

Thank you for your letter of 4 May 2022 inviting our comments on the request by the applicant concerning the timing of the Preliminary Meeting. This response provides comments from all four host authorities on the two specific matters which are raised in your letter.

Whether the Preliminary Meeting should be delayed until mid-July 2022

It would be our preference for the preliminary meeting to be delayed for the following reasons. First, we would prefer not to spend time before and during the examination working on aspects of the proposals which are due to be superseded. In particular, we would prefer to wait until these changes to the scheme are developed before submitting our Local Impact Report (LIR) early in the examination (usually at deadline 1).

The LIR's usefulness is reduced if it is rendered incomplete by a significant foreseeable change partway into the project. We are concerned that the proposed amendments may have significant implications for the nature of impacts in a number of topic areas, such as landscape & visual impact, cultural heritage and transport, among others. In our view, the examination itself would be more legible to the public and useful for all parties if these impacts can be considered properly from the start in the LIR, which is only possible with the applicant's proposed delay.

Second, as you may have seen from our Relevant Representations, all four host authorities have substantial concerns about the evidence base for this application. A series of technical meetings between the local authorities and the applicant is currently underway with a view to addressing some of these issues. It is our view that these issues are best dealt with, to the extent possible, before the start of the examination so that more examination time can be spent on the substantive planning (as opposed to technical) issues.

Notwithstanding this preference, it should be noted that the week commencing 18 July is the week prior to the summer holidays. This may affect the ability of local residents, parish councils, and personnel within the authorities to comment at specific times, and we ask that this is borne in mind while making any timetabling decisions.

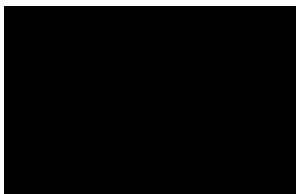
The Applicant's proposed timetable for further consultation on amendments

It is our view that the applicant is right to seek to consult further on the amendments made necessary by this change in circumstances. However, we have a number of concerns that we wish to raise at this time:

- The period for consultation is relatively short, and therefore its success depends on high-quality information about the proposed amendment being made available from the start;
- Many parish councils meet once a month and therefore a period of four weeks may make it difficult for some parishes to properly consider the consultation material and have their say depending on when in the period their meeting is scheduled. A period of six weeks is considered more appropriate. Some parish councils don't meet in August and any consultation over the summer holiday period would need a minimum of eight weeks;
- The public consultation should involve at least one public exhibition;
- It may be ambitious for the applicant to sufficiently have regard to consultation responses in only two weeks, especially if further evidence or technical work must be commissioned.

In order to accommodate these challenges, the local authorities suggest that it might be useful for a procedural decision on the date of the preliminary meeting be made only after the conclusion of the consultation so that the ExA can seek reassurance that the applicant is on-track to meet its suggested timetable.

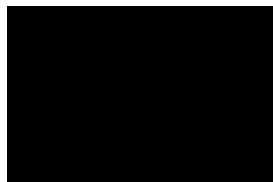
Kind regards,



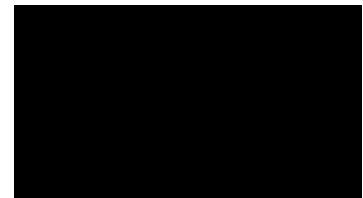
Andrew Cook,
Executive Director,
Growth Highways &
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Suffolk County
Council



Steve Cox
Executive Director
Place & Economy,
Cambridgeshire
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Rebecca Saunt,
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District Council



Julie Baird,
Director (Planning
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