

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Sunnica Energy Farm](#)
Subject: Your Ref: EN010106 Sunnica - Request by the Applicant in Respect of the Timing of the Preliminary Meeting/Examination
Date: 18 May 2022 12:26:26

Dear Sirs

Sunnica – Request by the applicant in respect of the Timing of the Preliminary Meeting / Examination.

Thank you for your letter dated 4th May 2022, asking for comment on Sunnica's request to change the date of the Preliminary Meeting.

As the Parish & Town Councils' Alliance, we have replied to the questions you have asked below but we believe the material change being proposed by Sunnica is so significant that they should be asked to withdraw the application. It should be reworked and then Sunnica should enter another period of proper consultation.

We cannot be asked to consider and comment on an electricity generating and trading scheme that currently does not have a way of getting electricity into the National Grid.

If the Application is not withdrawn the Alliance comments on the two questions as set out in the letter dated 4th May below:

1. *Whether the Preliminary Meeting should be delayed until Mid-July 2022*
 1. There must be a delay to the Preliminary meeting as Sunnica are proposing a material change to their DCO Application which will have a significant effect on the surrounding Parishes.
 2. This material change will require that a considerable amount of the detail that has already been submitted will have to be altered. We will need time to reassess this revision. It will not be possible to do this adequately within the tight timetable of the examination process if it is allowed to start. Basic details must be made available by Sunnica prior to the commencement of the examining process.
 3. We do not consider putting a firm start date on the Preliminary Meeting is appropriate. The Preliminary Meeting should only proceed when clear and adequate information has been provided by the applicant, and the local communities and authorities have been given sufficient time to assess this. The applicant should be required to consult fully with interested parties something they have refused to do up to this date.
 4. It should be noted that considerable costs have been incurred in scrutinising what we thought was the final application. The applicant should be asked to refund all reasonable costs foregone on this abortive work.
2. *The Applicant's proposed timetable to consult further on amendments intended to form the formal Change Request to be made to the ExA*
 1. We do not believe it possible for all amendments to be confirmed and documents prepared by end of May. The Applicant cannot be allowed to continue to under prepare.
 2. The amendments, if done properly, will be considerable and one month will not be long enough to consider, commission professional opinion, and make informed comment.
 3. Mid July is almost the most unfair date in the calendar to start an examination process with a tight timetable. The holiday period will have started and inevitably people will be away. We feel the fairest time to hold a Preliminary Meeting if all the documents are in order will be mid-September.

We appreciate the NSIP process has been introduced to speed matters up, but this cannot be done if it prejudices the quality and the fairness of the Examination. It may be too late but the Applicant should be made to withdraw this application and resubmit it

when it is properly prepared, and it has been consulted on in an open way. A proper Examination could then take place.

Yours faithfully

Fiona Maxwell

Chair, Parish & Town Councils' Alliance – Sunnica Group

Submitted on Behalf of the Parish and Town Council Alliance listed below:

Chippenham Parish Council

Fordham Parish Council

Freckenham Parish Council

Isleham Parish Council

Kennett Parish Council

Mildenhall Town Council

Newmarket Town Council

Red Lodge Parish Council

Snailwell Parish Council

West Row Parish Council

Worlington Parish Council