

Dear ExA

Thank you for inviting comments following the adjournment of the Sunnica Preliminary Meeting on 26th July 2022.

I, personally, find it frustrating that Sunnica Ltd appear to have submitted their application prematurely without having thoroughly assessed key parts of the scheme. I do feel that it is not fair to residents to keep them 'hanging on' while they continually make changes to their proposal. They should be encouraged to withdraw their application until they are ready to present a scheme that can be examined.

I was pleased that the ExA decided not to start the Examination while the latest changes are being explored by Sunnica, and while the outcome of the previous set of changes (proposed between April-July) is still unclear. This would not have been fair to local residents and would have caused duplication of work and cost. I already find it challenging to review the impacts of this scheme while juggling work, childcare and general life commitments, so I do not have any spare capacity to do this multiple times over.

The Examination cannot, in my personal view, begin until the changes have been submitted, reviewed by the ExA and accepted by the ExA (if indeed the changes are accepted). In addition, there needs to be adequate time for local residents to review the revised DCO documentation (which included the impacts of the proposed changes) before we can finalise our Written Representations. Bearing in mind that we are not planning experts and are reviewing these documents in whatever free time we can make.

Regarding Sunnica's latest proposed 'targeted' consultation, it seems that this relates largely to how they propose to navigate the narrow, winding rural lanes here with vehicles in excess of 46m in length, and with excessive weights (I understand up to 1000 tonnes). This latest consultation has been restricted to a handful of people/groups (parish councils, highways authorities and the owners of the land on the SW corner of the junction between Freckenham Road and the B1102). Such over-sized vehicles are likely to cause damage / significant disturbance to the roads and verges all the way along the routes to East A, B and West A, some of which will be close to peoples' homes/properties. I cannot understand why Sunnica are not carrying out consultation with more members of the public about these proposals. They seem to consider that they won't affect local people living here, which is not true.

Finally, during the final session of the PM on 26th July it was discussed whether food security and land use issues should be included as part of the Examination. The Sunnica development would, if approved, take highly productive and versatile food producing land out of food production for a significant period (in excess of 40 years), perhaps forever. This must be considered carefully in light of the global food shortages that we are now facing as a result of war, climate change, etc. I strongly agree that food security should be included as part of the Examination as a specific issue. Local residents here are very proud of their agricultural heritage and ability to provide food for others.