

**From:** [Helen Faulkner](#)  
**To:** [Sunnica Energy Farm](#)  
**Subject:** Helen Faulkner written representation 13/10/22 reference 20030116  
**Date:** 13 October 2022 21:00:38

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Date 13/10/22

Ref No 20030116

Dear Sir,

I have pleasure in forwarding my W/R Please acknowledge receipt of this email.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Myself, husband and 2 grown up children moved to Red Lodge in 2018 before the announcement of the Sunnica Energy Farm in March 2019.

We left the hectic life at Bishops Stortford and Harlow and the gridlocked traffic for the quiet and serenity of a country area and 1 mile away from my parents in Worlington.

When the Sunnica scheme was announced we were shocked at the scale of the proposal and how it was spread over such a wide area of Suffolk and East Cambridgeshire.

As a family we have a love of the countryside and enjoy walks through the Brecklands especially the footpath from Worlington to Badlingham. We understand Sunnica will close that footpath.

We also enjoy visiting the Golden Boar In Freckenham and La Hoque farm shop and restaurant in Chippenham. To get to those locations we have to travel along Elms Road, a very narrow road and not suitable for HGVs, from Red Lodge to the village of Freckenham and onwards to Chippenham.

Elms Road is planned to be the worst affected road in the Sunnica scheme with a main entrance to the Sunnica East site, avenues of solar panels 13 feet high and way above the hedgerows, and the most serious aspect of a large battery compound and substation with the inherent prospect of fire and explosion and toxic plumes.

Furthermore it is 1 mile to our parents' home in Worlington and the road we use from Red Lodge to that village will be an avenue of glass. If we make a detour via A11/Barton Mills/Golf Links Road we are once again surrounded by solar panels 13 feet high.

Therefore we must rethink our lifestyle as we have no wish to live in an industrial environment and may have to move away which will mean leaving our parents at the most vulnerable time of their life.

We cannot agree to the Sunnica proposal and will now set out our concerns on the relative sections of the DCO.

## **CONSTRUCTION.**

This is likely to take at least 2 years if DCO consent is given. It is projected 202 HGV and 1682 staff vehicles per day will move through the local villages in the scheme. This is a rural area and roads are narrow with no curbing and in some cases marked with notices "not suitable for HGVs".

This movement of vehicles, 6 days a week, will be in addition to the huge volume of large tractors and trailers plus HGVs that use the Bay farm on-farm anaerobic digestive plant to produce biogas. This site is open 7 days a week and tractor movements are from 6am to 11pm and the site is situated in Worlington on the border of Red lodge.

## DECOMMISSIONING.

There are no plans for decommissioning and recycling of plant components afterwards, potentially leaving a toxic wasteland. It is projected to last for 40 years, despite the life of solar PV panels being 25 years, and the land is unlikely to be suitable for its previous agricultural use afterwards.

I have a daughter of 28 and a son of 24 and my generation has a duty to ensure their generation are able to enjoy the environment locally as we see it today.

## BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS (BESS)

The scheme includes grid scale battery storage, which currently has no adequate engineering standards to ensure safety. Large scale BESS present well known fire hazards, with explosion potential and toxic gas emissions. Press comment and academics reports provide evidence of fires globally over the last 4 years with loss of life and serious injury.

My house is within half a mile of the massive BESS and substation in Elms Road. The community is frightened of the risks involved. We know from the battery fire in Illinois 3000 people were evacuated from their homes within a 10 mile radius. If a catastrophe happened in Elms Road up to 20,000 people would have to be evacuated in a 10 mile radius. We have no idea where we would be accommodated, whether Fire and Rescue services could cope, whether there would be sufficient ambulances. What we do know is there is never a spare bed in the West Suffolk Hospital in Bury St Eds or Addenbrooks in Cambridge for casualties.

## COMPULSORY PURCHASE.

Sunnica Ltd will use these powers to take land that it needs to fulfil the scheme, causing huge distress, disruption and legal costs to many local residents and businesses. This is an undemocratic process and infringes on persons Human Rights.

## ALTERNATIVE SITES

I have no idea why this unique landscape of the Brecklands has been chosen to change the character of the environment into an industrial landscape. No alternative sites have been suggested by Sunnica and there is no evidence brownfield sites have been explored. The farmland being used by Sunnica produces good quality crops for our food chain and in view of the present difficulties with Ukraine we need to retain all food producing land to save on imports.

## CONCLUSION

From day 1 in 2019 Sunnica Ltd and its main director and shareholder Luke Murray have elected not to engage with the public. They have their own agenda and have refused to meet local communities, failed to accept an invitation from our 2 MPs to attend a public meeting in late 2021, failed to communicate through their consultations and answer questions.

They are also notorious for missing deadlines such as the presentation of the DCO to the Planning Inspectorate, failing to obtain a written agreement with National Grid on a grid connection at the Burwell sub station and after presenting the DCO requesting changes that delayed the start of the 6 month Examination timetable.

This has meant further anxiety for the local community and more uncertainty and stress.

**End of report**

