Royal Worlington & Newmarket Golf Club

Secretary:

Clubhouse:





8th November 2022

Professional:

Sunnica Energy Farm | Royal Worlington and Newmarket Golf Club

As Secretary of Royal Worlington & Newmarket Golf Club, I have been asked by our Trustees and management board to submit the following as the Club's Written Representation to the Planning Inspectorate, being part of the Examination process for the Sunnica Energy Farm Development Consent Order.

We are a club of 550 members. Each of our members will have their own personal views on any benefits and disbenefits of this project as to energy and food security, and of course, some will hold neutral views. Our members will be able to make their own representations to the Inspectorate as they see fit.

The Club's Trustees and management board feel that they shouldn't comment here specifically on matters of energy and food security. However, they do, on behalf of the Club, feel they have a responsibility to ensure, as best they can, that the design, construction, maintenance and decommissioning of this project, in the event it does receive planning approval from the Secretary of State, does not adversely affect the integrity of our course and associated grounds. That these are protected from any damaging effects this project might have on the environmental and ecological stability of our land and property. We currently enjoy a peaceful and natural setting which has endured since the Club's formation 129 years ago.

The Club has been recognised by the golfing world and has been ranked as the world's number one nine-hole course by Golf Magazine. The Sunnica Energy Farm, if permitted and then poorly designed and managed, has the capacity to damage the standing and reputation of our Club of world renown.

There will be other areas near to the planned energy farm which will be viewed as having similar sensitivities, and we ask the Inspectorate to take these areas into consideration. The scale of the project appears disproportionately large for the local power demands and would appear to fall unfairly on our local communities; a scaling back of the size of the project will afford these sites better protection and is something we ask the Inspectorate to consider.

For all these reasons we continue to object to the original proposals for the use of Golf Links Road as an access route for the construction of adjacent areas of the proposed development, or its servicing, and decommissioning in due course. The road is single carriageway as it passes through our property, and is used by walkers, cyclists, and horse riders for leisure purposes as well as for essential access. It is not suitable for any large vehicles, and any increased intensity of use of the road is inappropriate and will be damaging and dangerous. We have been assured that all reference to this road (in the plans for the scheme and the access from the A.11) have been/will be totally removed – our objection is just to ensure that outcome occurs.

Kind regards



Mark Allcorn, Secretary