

THE JOCKEY CLUB

ROOMS

02/11/22

Reference 20031344 / The Sunnica Energy Farm

Dear Sir / Madam,

We are writing on behalf of The Jockey Club Rooms, The Bedford Lodge Hotel, The Best Western Heath Court Hotel and the National Horse Racing Museum. We would like to express and have recorded our extreme concern with regards to the proposed Sunnica Energy Solar Farm. As currently proposed, we all agree that the scheme will do significant harm to our businesses.

All of our businesses work continuously hard to develop the tourism trade within the historic town of Newmarket, not only does this benefit the town, it also supports over 300 jobs locally between us, not to mention our suppliers. This is all reliant on the consistency of tourism to visit Newmarket and the surrounding area. Any threat to that consistency poses a threat to our businesses.

Newmarket's unique and historic landscape is second to none in the world, which is the reason why we have the best thoroughbred horses. Many of these horses sell for millions at Tattersall's, they also attract guests to our properties from all around the world throughout the year. They also train every day in Newmarket and are stabled here and surrounding areas which also supports 1000s of jobs in the industry.

Newmarket also has one of the largest breeding operations in the world, and many of these stud farms back onto the proposed site.

To allow the Sunnica Energy Farm 2,500 acre site to go ahead in our area will have a harmful impact not only to our tourism trade, it will also put many future stud farms off from having their horses stabled here. This in the long run will have a detrimental effect on the local economy and would be far reaching.

For the horseracing industry, the loss of the landscape that has been associated with Newmarket racing and training for so many years will mean people in the industry view the town less well. Investment will be harder to get as the nature of the town as a rural horseracing community will be destroyed by the extensive solar panels. They will overlook some of our most iconic sites, most notably the Limekilns. If the industry views the town less well, investment will be less. Stud farmers, both present and future, will be put off from remaining here. This will cause the horseracing industry to decline in the town. Whether or not the scheme is eventually removed, the downgrading of the town in the mind of the horseracing industry is likely something we will never recover from. There are many other locations across the UK and the world which can replace Newmarket as the centre of the industry. It is crucial we do not harm it, for the good of the town.

For tourists, if the horseracing industry declines so will visits to see the horseracing and to be involved in the industry. In addition, the loss of the quality landscape itself will directly put tourists off and encourage them to go elsewhere. The visual impact of this will cover a vast area, damaging its natural beauty and will take many years for this to be naturally hidden with any potential planting schemes. One of our main attractions for guests visiting is our landscape, if this goes ahead this will change suddenly. Also, for the two years the scheme is being built, much of the local area will be a building site. Even two years of reduced revenue due to this will harm our businesses.

Speaking to a top EDF energy consultant specialising in nuclear energy, we have been informed that by the nature of solar, it would (obviously) only collect energy when the sun is shining, this energy is then limited in how it is stored, therefore resulting in the need for many batteries to allow this to be effective. We are concerned that harm is going to be done to our town, and to our businesses, for insufficient gain.

We also have real concerns about the inclusion of batteries in the scheme. We do not understand how many batteries will be included and we ask that Sunnica provide that information. We understand that if one of these batteries were to leak or explode, the evacuation required would be a large radius. Who would pay for

◆◆◆◆◆
THE JOCKEY CLUB
ROOMS

the loss of revenue to our businesses? This is also a great concern to the surrounding stud farms being able evacuate their world class horses, where would they go assuming they could evacuate safely in time?

Sunnica have not explained any sufficient benefit to our town and local business to offset having this site located on our doorstep. This poses a real threat to tourism and horseracing in the town. Therefore must stress that this is not allowed to proceed.

Sincerely,

Christopher Ogston, General Manager The Jockey Club Rooms

Noel Burns Chief Executive of The Bedford Lodge Hotel

Robert Nobs General Manager of The Best Western Heath Court Hotel

Anne-Marie Hogan Director of the National Horse Racing Museum.



anne-marie hogan



David Cracher Deputy General Manager

