

**Written Response Sunnica Energy Farm
Ref no. 20030335**

The Lady Frances Peyton Hospital Almshouse Charity was established in the 16th Century to provide accommodation for those in need within Isleham. The Charity is an integral part of the community to promote Isleham as a fine place to live.

The Charity is directly affected by the Proposals from Sunnica. It owns and has registered title of 7 acres immediately adjacent to the proposed Sunnica A East site. This land is immediately to the north of the site EO5, adjacent to the Lee Brook and 600m from the the BESS site E33. There was no notification of the proposals from Sunnica to the Charity despite being a direct neighbour to its proposals. As a consequence our opinion has never been sought. This land is part of the Charity's land holding which is used to generate revenue to promote its charitable activities. It is let for agricultural purposes.

The charity has a number of concerns about Sunnica's proposals beyond the lack of consultation undertaken. These are:

1. The development of agricultural land for industrial purposes.

We are acutely aware of the issue of food security for our nation. We deplore the loss of what we know is good quality agricultural land which produces high value crops. This land is farmed using crop rotation to retain its productivity to produce high yields. It is not poor-quality land as Sunnica claim. Accredited independent soil testing should be carried out to ensure our best land is not lost from food production and the issue of food security should be addressed in this Examination.

2. The issue of the impact on our land.

The land's close proximity to solar panel arrays raises the question of the impact of the development on our land. The runoff from the site will increase soil erosion and this will have significant impact on the Lee Brook which our land adjoins. The Lee Brook is a chalk stream with a rich variety of flora and fauna which will be placed at risk. This risk would be increased should the PV cells be damaged here. We are concerned that Sunnica have not properly assessed the impacts on this local area, including our land.

3. The location of battery storage.

Site E33 is less than 600m from our land. We are deeply concerned about the lack of regulation with these grid scale batteries and the very real risk of fire and explosion. We are also concerned that Sunnica's proposals are very limited and do not include preventative measures which we believe should be included.

4. The Impact on views and the landscape.

The Charity has a long history within Isleham. The hedging and tree belts proposed at EO5 will destroy the historic long and wide ranging views over this area both to and from the village. This proposal will dramatically shorten views in an area that has historically not been hedged or heavily wooded. It is an open agricultural landscape connecting our fen edge village to Breckland and the Fen. It sets Isleham in the landscape of being visible from all routes to it across open fields and is enjoyed by both residents and visitors. There is no mitigation that can be achieved. This shows complete disregard by Sunnica of what it recognises are views of "high value".

The Charity's concerns have not been addressed in the proposals for this industrialisation of agricultural land. Sunnica has failed to engage properly with the local community and has proposed a scheme which will fail to enhance our local environment. It will clearly diminish it and Sunnica's mitigation proposals clearly show a complete lack of understanding of our area, its history and its setting.

The Charity therefore strongly objects to Sunnica's proposals.