

I am writing further to my response dated 15th March 2022, I feel that it is important to elaborate on the points raised. We chose the very outskirts of Isleham as our home nearly 20 years ago, this choice was made as we were near to the centre of a lovely community, but more importantly due to the stunning rural aspects of the fens. Since moving to the village we have become parents and our family enjoys the countryside on our doorstep daily.

If the Sunnica project was to go ahead then this would have a huge impact on our daily family life, as the countryside that we enjoy very close to our doorstep would no longer exist. This would be detrimental to both our physical and mental wellbeing as we would no longer be able to enjoy this large aspect of our lives, which our children also hold very dear.

This change would bring a large question as to whether we could stay in our current home, in turn having a devastating effect on our family as a whole.

We daily walk the length of Sheldricks road in Isleham, and the views that we love and bring us much enjoyment would be decimated and replaced with solar panels, and during construction a building sight as far as the eye could see, I know we as a family would be significantly impacted emotionally by this change. I can only assume this would be the case with the many other people we see walking dogs, running and walking this route as well.

Our family also use the local woods on the top of station road a few times a week and find the views breath taking and relaxing, which is a huge boost to mental health, this would also be removed as the view would be replaced with the Sunnica site.

During the year our family enjoy many bike rides, walks and runs around the Isleham, Freckenham and Chippenham area this would also be taken from us if the proposal was to go ahead, effecting both our mental and physical health. As it would not be safe during the construction period and our family wouldn't enjoy exercising along the proposed perimeters of what in effect would be industrial areas.

When going out in local areas the traffic is minimal, which is consistent with the minor roads and the quality of the roads, which makes it safe to be on foot or bike on the local roads, if the proposed development was to go ahead we feel that the level of traffic would be greatly increased in size and quantity making the use of the roads unsafe for the pedestrians and cyclists. If the infrastructure was not improved it may well become unsafe for even vehicles as the roads are sure to deteriorate.

We live a very outdoor life and would greatly worry about pollution to our local environment during the construction in the way of traffic pollution, noise pollution and general dirt and dust from construction, and after construction traffic and noise pollution from the general running and maintenance of the site, greatly changing our local environment.

Other points I wish to raise is the impact on local wildlife, we daily see a wise variety of wildlife living on our rural doorstep, I dread to think the impact on this wildlife during the construction of the proposed solar panels let alone the long term impact. Having witnessed first hand the detrimental effect a small scale housing estate had on our immediate wildlife.

I would question the validity of using prime agricultural land for such a project, and the variety of crops produced locally is vast, especially when environmentally having to import food is far from environmentally friendly. I would have thought there were much more unproductive sites available.

There is also a huge question in our minds about the safety aspects of the project especially in the way of battery safety, especially after the recent news articles on the fire risks of batteries and leakage.

The final point is what will happen to the site at the end of its life? As I would hate to think that we have left a nightmare of a clear up or potential site of danger, with no safe disposal of units for our children to deal with, this may only be in 25 years time. It seems a very large impact to the local environment for such a short term energy solution.

In summary for our family and extended family this would have a huge negative impact, as the reality is that we would have to give up our family home, my job as I am a 1 to 1 teaching assistant [REDACTED], my boys would have to change school, we would lose friendships and have start again, we would in effect lose our life that we have spent 20 years building or in the case of our children the only life they have ever known.

Regards The Minshull family