

I write to you today as a local resident to communicate my strongest possible objection to the completely inappropriate and morally wrong Sunnica Solar scheme.

First up I would like to say that I appreciate the need for renewable energy sources but it has to hit certain key criteria and deliver true benefits to the local area and economy all of which Sunnica falls way short of. I feel the argument is very clear and anyone anywhere can see that this scheme is totally the wrong thing to be doing. It has absolutely zero support other than the from stakeholders within the businesses set for significant financial gain if it were to go ahead.

The size of the scheme is the first wholly inappropriate aspect with it taking in 7 villages and being the biggest currently proposed in Britain. For us as locals this will have massive ramifications in terms of our ability to enjoy where we live as well as knocking unimaginable levels of value off properties people have worked hard to acquire and can no longer sell. We will simply not be able to escape the setting of industrial scale solar panels and an enormous battery station. I regularly run, cycle and exercise racehorses in the area and all enjoyment and crucially safety will be compromised by both the build and continued existence of this scheme, especially in the area of Badlingham lane which is enclosed either side by panels. This in stark contrast to what it is now which is attractive, commercially viable farmland regularly growing vegetables, grains and potatoes as well as housing animals such as pigs, cattle, horses and sheep.

Aside from the destruction of the unique and beautiful countryside we are also losing swaths of land capable of producing home grown crops. I have worked on potato harvests in this exact area and know it to be capable of producing 65 tonnes per hectare as well as grass capable of rearing young racehorses and other crucial livestock. Food shortages and increased reliance on foreign imports is a huge issue for this country and repurposing quality British farmland is something that shouldn't happen especially when it is purely for the financial gain of a Spanish owned company and its greedy stakeholders.

It has been independently verified by Cranfield University that the actual carbon footprint of the scheme is positive meaning it will emit more carbon than it will ever be able to save. This takes into account the building of the scheme and associated lorry movements and creation of materials. Calculations for the upkeep and decommissioning have not even been factored in, so why build it at all when it can not even achieve its one goal and the other effects are so disastrous to the local area? The other two things I find deeply troubling about the use of solar is the extraordinary amounts of fresh water they require to clean the panels, this is fast becoming one of the most important and increasingly finite resources on the planet and shouldn't be wasted like this. Another issue they have is once their useful life expires they are dismantled and sent to huge landfill sites usually in 3rd world or developing countries. Regardless of your beliefs on this particular scheme those are two practices that should be avoided at all costs.

The climate crisis is deeply concerning and something needs to be done but it must not be used to allow opportunistic, financially motivated and dishonest parties to the table faking an interest for personal gain. They have quite clearly made this scheme as big as it is to avoid decision making on a local level where scrutiny is highest. Their battery storage capacity far exceeds the capabilities of their solar panels clearly indicating their actual desire which is to trade electricity on a daily basis from the national grid. They have outlined no plan for the land post the scheme in the full knowledge that it will be changed to a brownfield site opening up huge potential development opportunities for the land owners. These are all tell-tale signs of a scheme and plan not interested in

the core issue but instead in money which will all come at the expense of us as the locals.

Considering the irreparable damage this scheme will cause emotionally, physically, financially and environmentally it simply must be stopped and beg you to use all power you have to oppose it as strongly as possible.

Thank you very much.