

Deadline 4 Submission - Interested Party Ref No: 20029971

Post Hearing Submission following attendance at Open Floor Hearings on December 6 2022 (OHF1) and December 9 2022 (OHF2).

Comments on Specific Issue

Horseracing and Breeding Industry

Having heard Speakers at the recent Open Floor Hearings detail the impacts Sunnica's proposed scheme would have on the horseracing and breeding industry and having myself enjoyed a long career in the industry within and around the Newmarket area, I feel it would be remiss of me to not to add my comments. This is a unique case; the horseracing and breeding industry is like no other and the view from the Limekilns is just one of a myriad of impacts and harms that this scheme would inflict.

Over the past 35 years I have had the good fortune to work with, and for, three of the largest investors and contributors to horseracing in the UK – and the Newmarket area in particular – the sport has ever, and is ever, likely to enjoy. I expect – and would hope – the Examining Authority will be fully aware of the huge internationally unrivalled investment made by the major prominent Middle and Far Eastern, British and European racehorse and stud owners in the area. These same investors also privately support a large number of non-racing related local charities through extremely generous philanthropic endeavours; their presence in and commitment to the locality is immeasurable.

These people have a choice; there are many other areas of the UK, of the world, where they could choose to base their prestigious businesses. There are other prominent and excellent training centres and locations in the UK in which to invest and locate, but they choose the Newmarket area – unarguably the historical home of the sport and a centre of unrivalled excellence, but also a beautiful and unspoilt location they are unquestionably drawn to.

I have been fortunate to spend many occasions in the company of many of these people, overseas visitors in particular – taking them not only to the Heath, to view the excitement of horses at exercise on the gallops, but also to the racecourses and to visit the many studs, pre-training and boarding facilities within the area. Driving, walking and riding through this unique landscape, its openness, huge skies, ageless distant views, verdant green heathland, ever changing arable fields, tiny country lanes, ancient hedgerows, historically significant architecture, delicate rivers surviving since the bronze age, byways and footpaths in existence since the Romans – it is this heritage setting that enchants them and keeps them coming back.

It is in, and because of, this unique and historic setting, that these investors have chosen the Newmarket area, chosen to build their racing stables and studs here and choose renew that investment each year buying horses for both racing and breeding at Tattersalls Newmarket sales, and putting their finest homebred yearlings annually into the care of Newmarket trainers.

The view that the horseracing and breeding industry in Newmarket is a 'resilient' one is tempered by the hard fact that without this investment from both homegrown and overseas investors the horseracing and bloodstock industry would fail to thrive.

The participation of and investment by these major owners, breeders and institutions and by all who fund horseracing on some way or another enable the horseracing and breeding industry in

and around the Newmarket area to comprise not just the current 81 trainers and racing stables, 2500+ racehorses, 40 stud farms, 20 pre-training, re-training, resting and boarding facilities, and many thousands of direct and indirect employees, but innumerable others involved in many way.

The staff of the four major equine veterinary practices, three state of the art equine hospitals, horse transporters, farriers, feed merchants, stable equipment suppliers, clothing, tack, saddle and racing colours makers; many of these businesses have been local to the area for generations; some the result of significant new investment – all continue to provide multi-generational employment – the skills required here attracting international world class practitioners.

All of these businesses in turn provide employment for associated businesses; not only the above, but hotel keepers, builders, maintenance contractors, cleaning, catering, gardening and driving staff, stationers, bloodstock and shipping agents and sales company staff.

All of these people and their families live somewhere; many of them incomers – like myself – have chosen to live and work in this unique and special area surrounding Newmarket and travel through it for work, rest and play; we are a huge and vital support to the local economy.

Would any of us have been attracted to this unique environment if it were not for the opportunities the horseracing and breeding industry offers? My answer is No.

Would any of us be attracted to live in a village surrounded by a sea of glass, by endless views of solar panels, weather stations and battery storage in every direction we look?
My answer is No.