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12 December 2022

Dear Sirs,

Re: Sunnica; ID No. 20030080:- written follow-up to my participation at the OFH 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022 in Newmarket Memorial Hall.

What follows is a written transcript of my verbal contribution- it is slightly longer than spoken as I ran short of time and had to edit. I would be grateful if you would consider it alongside my previous evidence.

My name is Josie Jennings. By way of introduction, I have a Masters degree in Historic Conservation, and I have a husband who happens to be a planning consultant-we met through work in the planning sector. For the last 7 ½ years we have lived at [REDACTED] Worlington with our children. At the moment, I spend most of my time either at home or around the local villages as I have a family member who needs support. We moved here because we wanted space and we like the rural environment - we walk the footpaths around Worlington and the River Lark regularly with our dog.

We weren't naïve when we moved here; we always expected the area immediately around us would change with the pressure from the growth of Cambridge- and we knew there would be things we might not like. But when

we first found out about Sunnica, I just remember my husband looking out of our back window shaking his head and saying “Never in my wildest dreams did I ever imagine anything quite like this.” The other schemes pale into insignificance next to the sheer scale of Sunnica- what else could turn so much open country into such a vast industrial landscape?

It was apparent to me from the preliminary consultation stage that there will be no way of leaving my home, or indeed the whole of Worlington, without encountering Sunnica. Everywhere I go and everything I do will be affected by the scheme or by the construction of it. I will see it or drive through it every day. And if that applies to me, it must apply to a lot of other people as well.

One of the speakers on Tuesday evening suggested people were overwhelmed by the scale of the scheme, and I think that is what happened to us. I simply couldn't comprehend the whole scheme, and I'm afraid I couldn't face the public meetings about it, it all seemed too much.

Neither of us could understand how something spread across a such a wide area, involving so many different locations and types of environment could possibly provide comprehensive, detailed examination of the site within a single application; especially as it seemed to have appeared out of nowhere.

I decided what I could usefully do was to go through the paperwork and see if I could work out what the detailed effect would be on the area immediately around us- the bits that are special to us- especially Worlington Heath and Badlingham Lane. I found it impossible to read and take in all the paperwork with the limits of normal life. However, the lack of precise information on any aspect of the existing natural environment, the requirements of the construction process, and the extent of the amelioration works was striking.

This process has not involved a 2-way conversation with residents- I tired that and was met with responses that could best be described as glib. When I asked Luke Murray about the future of some of our local grassland, the response was "It will still *be* grassland, *under* the panels."

Sunnica have not made the effort to present clearly to me the information for my local area so I can see such things clearly- such as exactly where site levelling will be required or which trees, will be preserved- it is not enough to say that such natural features will be retained 'where practical'. Neither, for example, can I point to such detail as a grass mix that is proven to work under panels on our dry Breckland soil- or indeed see any reasonably thought out way of stopping Breckland blowing away through the air during construction. A bit of damping is unlikely to be enough. The land is apparently to be restored after use- but no-one has sought to convince me of the extent to

which this is possible if the site has been levelled, concrete roadways have been added and the panels have been piled into the ground.

When this process first started, it seemed like there was a lack of local knowledge by the applicant, which was regrettable at the time. Now we are at the application stage, and I am worried that should the scheme be approved, the lack of detailed relevant information that still exists would result in a huge and damaging lack of control on the ground. I am therefore very much concerned that the application has got to this stage based on the quality and accessibility of the information submitted. The only certainty for us seems to be the negative effect- which is projected to still be significant at the 15 year mark.

The parameters of the scheme still seem to be changing – how was it appropriate to use a Rochdale Envelope in such inhabited and environmentally sensitive areas? And who's to say that the current proposed area is the end of it? If the massive battery storage systems are allowed and the whole scheme has it's own connection to the grid, what is there to stop further applications for new vast areas of panels being attached in the future- the backyards of thousands more people.

It was pointed out on Tuesday evening by Sunnica's representative that this application is no longer unique, there are others coming. We must trust

therefore that this scheme will be subject to the most thorough scrutiny and the decisions carefully made for the sake of other areas as well as our own.

It seems to us that this is not a proposal made with the environment in mind, it is made with profit in mind. But, for those of us subject to this unwanted invasion, there is a vast cost and no benefit.

Thank you for your time,

Josie Jennings MSc