

Good morning Mr Keane and panel members, thank you for your time. The ExA will have heard all sorts of technical detail about this proposed scheme, which I will not repeat. What I would like to do, very briefly, is to illustrate for you the human effects of this proposal, the effects on the day to day life of the residents and people of this area.

One of the principal reasons people live in small villages like Freckenham is a love of the countryside. We are not urban nor do we desire to live in an industrial area. We are part of a rural community of our choosing.

I am a partner at a veterinary practice in Newmarket, providing care to the towns thoroughbreds (including horses managed by previous speakers Mr Nick Wright and Sir Mark Prescott). Some of the farms I attend are within the actual Sunnica catchment, including Nick Wright's stables at Badlingham, and John James' Brookside Stud on the corner of Elms road. My children have been educated at Ely, which with Newmarket are the towns we use day to day.

Let us imagine this scheme goes ahead, at the proposed size and scale. Think now, what that means for my days, for my daily routine, for my week...but not just mine. Scale this thought up to include every resident of Isleham, Freckenham, Chippenham, Badlingham, Worlington and Snailwell; many of whom are not comfortable speaking here in public. Thousands of other people, will experience what I will now describe.

I leave home and drive to work in Newmarket...gone are trees and hedgerows and ploughed fields, replaced with acres of glaring solar panels. I attend Brookside Stud, a place I visit at least weekly,

and in the breeding season, daily. Brookside Stud will now be surrounded by a vast desolation of steel and plastic, right up to and twice the height of the surrounding hedges.

I drive to Ely, to pick up my children from school, or go to the cathedral, or shop at the supermarkets, out of Freckenham and up the small rise to Isleham. Away to my right, currently a sweeping vista of pale earth, rows of onions or potatoes, or barley swaying in the breeze...gone, the rural world we have chosen to make our home, replaced by huge swathes of industrial estate.

On Saturday morning I go in the other direction, to take my son to Park Run at Mildenhall. What will we pass...solar panels, solar panels, solar panels, indeed the entire village of Worlington will be eaten up, a beautiful small village, consumed by a cancer it didn't ask for, derives little benefit from, and will likely never recover from.

Finally on Sunday, I take the dog for a walk in Freckenham. Down past the pub, along the street, down Mortimer Lane. This is one of only two walking paths in our village, used daily by dozens of people for exercise, dog walks and horse riding. At the end of Mortimer Lane there is a lane of remnant hedgerow and at the end of it, open fields. But these fields, half the walk, will disappear, eaten up by 12 foot high fences, solar panels and electricity infrastructure. This is solar array E7, and for Freckenham one of the most deleterious aspects of this whole scheme.

So you see, the problem for the residents of our villages is not solar panels per se, not renewable energy, but rather the enormous, vast scale of this project and its siting around our entire community. It is not confined to one corner of our area but spreads everywhere, so that if this goes ahead there will not be a single direction we can turn where we will not be confronted with this hideous spectacle. There is no way this can be adequately screened, unless Sunnica came somehow

magic up mature forest, which they can't. And then there are the years of disruption to roads, to our traffic and daily lives.

I refer the examining authority to the National Infrastructure Commission Design Group principles. Projects, to quote, are meant to “make a positive contribution to local landscapes”, “respect and enhance local culture” and “deliver net biodiversity gain”. This scheme is contrary to these principles. This same document states that the views of communities affected by the infrastructure must be taken into account and reflected in the design. There is virtually no support for this project, at village, parish, district or county level. Village surveys have shown over 90% opposition to this scheme. To foist this abomination on our community would be the most flagrant abuse of democratic principle imaginable, and I can only thank our elected representatives at all levels for standing up for their constituents.

Finally, I would echo the previous speakers, Sir Mark Prescott and John Steel, regarding the negative aspects of this scheme on the horse racing industry. Our practice employs 150 people, whose lives are wholly dependant on the success of Newmarket, which can only flourish in a rural environment.

I implore you reject this proposal outright. Thank you.