

**FPC** are deeply concerned with a scheme of this size and the impact it will have upon our village. It is expected that up to 3000 additional vehicles, many of them HGV'S, will move through our village each day. One of the only routes into isleham (one of the main sites) is through Fordham, it runs directly in front of our primary school. As a village we need to be able to ensure that our children have safe routes to school. This road is a quiet B road, but will cease to be so with this volume of traffic. As a council and community, we are concerned with the battery storage units at isleham and Chippenham. As a community we are close enough that should the worst happen, and this batteries catch fire, we may be looking at possible evacuations or at the very least, closed window polices. To us this feels like the right scheme in the wrong place. It is too close to too many communities. Members from our Fordham Cambs Walking Group (FCWG) which has over 200 active members, including members from our neighbouring villages, have expressed strong concerns regarding the inadequacy of mitigation relating to permissive routes. Other significant concerns have been expressed regarding temporary loss of routes during construction, fire safety, countryside character, ecology, and loss of productive farmland. Also, people are feeling threatened with a strongly perceived isolation of village communities as a result of the sheer amount of panels and associated structures proposed over a such wide area. It is also fair to say that most members of the group are supportive of the principle of carbon reductions through renewable energy projects. The issues with this application, are around the how much, what and where, together with community impacts and lack of mitigation.

We have spoken at length in meetings and personally as to how a scheme of this size and scale will affect us on a more personal level. The following is a collection of the general feeling of the councillors and parishioners of Fordham.

Something that strikes us as odd, has been continually hearing that the area in which we live, is not an area of outstanding natural beauty and therefore is well suited for a site on the scale of this one.

We are the people of the land. We are born of it; we spend our lives working it and we do so in the knowledge that one day we return to it. We are the generations of farmers and farm workers, landowners and horse trainers, the stable hands, and flower growers.

This may not be an area of nationally recognised outstanding beauty, but we know it. We know every dip and swell, where to pull the horses up and where to let them have their head. As those that farm the land, we know where to look on the horizon for rain and the loose soil in summer for fen blow.

We watch as the corn ripples across the fields and remark how it looks like waves, this is our ocean. We know better than anyone what the land gives, we watch with every passing year, and we see the damages of climate change. We understand that we hold a responsibility to those that come after us to preserve this land ,and perhaps fields of solar panels will be the cross we must bear for the generations that come long after we are gone.

But in all our dealings with Sunnica it is becoming more and more clear that green energy is not what they are offering. It is more clear that the harm to our area is so great, and the benefits are so little.

They are taking a constant from our lives. This land has always been. It does not waver, it remains steadfast. When our Grandfathers and Great Grandfathers lay in the muds of France, it was this land and the right for it to remain that they fought for. Some were lucky enough to return to it, continue to work it and live out their lives, others returned only to lay beneath it and many did not return.

But the land remained the same.

No matter what is happening around us, the land is our constant. Even as recent as 2020, when pandemic forced us all into solitude and separation, we found ourselves returning to the land. We walked it and waved at each other from afar. The old showed the young the pathways of their youth and our young will pass along this knowledge to their own children.

Do you know what a crisp September morning watching the horses run the gallops feels like? The cool

air, the crunch of leaves underfoot, the sound of hooves pounding the earth. These places are holy to us, this land is our church.

If Sunnica is built, that will all change. The land will become unrecognisable to us, with miles of shiny solar cells that cut us off from our surroundings. We do not own this land, we are only ever custodians for the next generation and what will we pass on to them? The scheme will take away this land that has always been, which has always supported our communities and way of life. Whether or not the scheme is eventually removed, the harm will remain, as the links between our neighbouring communities will have been destroyed and because of this, the community ties we have with our neighbours will change as we become more isolated.

This is what we face from a scheme which gives so very little and yet harms us so very much.

The trade off from Sunnica is not worth it to us. We are being forced to give up too much, to lose too much, we are being asked to sacrifice too much. We are losing the one thing, that no matter what life brings, is always a constant to us.

**Fordham Parish Council,**  
**Chairman: P.D. Rampley**  
**Clerk: Mrs. C.M. Standley**

