

## Horsemens Group Submission

I write as a racehorse trainer of 36 years standing and as Chairman of the Heath Committee, a body of trainers and representatives of Jockey Club Estates tasked with the maintenance and integrity of the training grounds. As such I represent all the town's trainers from large to small.

Due to time constraints I was unable to speak at today's hearing so I thank the chairman for offering the opportunity to make a written submission.

Much was spoken about the Limekilns gallops and the effect the expanse of photovoltaic cells would have upon them so I will try not to go over ground already trodden.

Newmarket's pre-eminence as a training centre was not disputed but it was asserted by the Sunnica team that the HRI had suffered ups and downs before but had always recovered. I would add that we live in very different times where the threats to our prosperity are very different to before. In the last three years horse racing in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Qatar has expanded tremendously and will continue to do so and with exceptional prizemoney in Australia racing there is undergoing growth beyond all imagination a few years ago.

So why would a racehorse owner want to have a horse trained in Newmarket?

And how as a trainer do I try to convince a potential client to do so?

A new owner may be impressed by the history and the prestige but we still need something to ignite the passion and make them commit to the town. As part of that process trainers will take a potential client to the Limekilns as it is the HRI's greatest asset. Standing atop of the gallops by the Bury Road and the whole amphitheatre is laid out before you. The great horses and famous people that have trodden the same ground can be recited but as much as anything the superb rural vista looking across the shallow valley towards Chippenham Park is a backdrop little changed for two centuries. The A14 is not visible from there as it sits in a cutting and the railway line is not in the slightest bit intrusive as trains are infrequent.

If that view is ruined by the spectacle of acre upon acre of blue photovoltaic cells then I doubt that passion will be ignited and the potential client will go elsewhere. The super rich investor can afford to be involved wheresoever takes their fancy. They want everything to be the best it can be and that includes the ambience of the surroundings. All their research of gallops and training centres will have turned up photographs of open spaces and rural, bucolic settings. They are not expecting to see a backdrop that is semi-industrial. The small owner, even a potential minor shareholder and the lifeblood of the smaller yards, is probably even more likely to be put off as they are much more likely to have the notion of the romance of the place. To them participating in racehorse ownership is a lifestyle choice where they can spend time on the gallops in a rural setting so that they can relax and escape the stress of city living.

If the development goes ahead I, for one, would be forced to show a potential client the Limekilns from the Norwich Road side so that the development can't be seen as, not only as you have your back to it but because you are on the lower side. However that is the worst place from which to view the Limekilns as you do not have the full view, indeed you cannot see much of it at all.

The villages to the north east of Newmarket house many of our important workers, especially vets, farriers and senior managers because, not only is it a pleasant area in which to live but it offers better value for money than the villages to the south and west. Many also choose to live there because of the rural setting where they can take long peaceful walks to relax and where it is a pleasant place to bring up their children. With the development acting like a flood many will feel isolated and cut off from their surrounding communities. Unable to afford to move because of the negative effect of this development on house prices they will move away.

At first the loss of owners and key workers will be a trickle but it will soon become a flood as confidence and enjoyment is eroded so that the overall effect on the HRI is potentially catastrophic. It cannot be likened to the Hatchfield Farm development as that was potentially nothing more than a nuisance but this development has the potential to be a very real existential threat to the HRI in the future.