

## **Deadline 4 Submission**

### **Interested Party ID 20031443 Sunnica Proposal (Justin Fuga)**

My name is Justin Fuga , I'm a resident of Isleham and I love living in the countryside.

I really appreciate the wildlife, the agriculture, the expansive views, the Fenland characteristics that make this place so special. As you stand on Sheldricks Road by the Ark Church, or the old railway station bridge on Station Road you can see for miles, from Isleham to Mildenhall, Freckenham & Chippenham. These elevated views are fantastic, I like to see the birds and the wildlife and the potatoes and other crops growing in the field. It reminds me that I'm living a rural life. It reminds me that I'm in the countryside. The Sunnica proposal would change this because all that I would see are fields of glass and metal with some battery containers and inverters. That will not make me feel like I am living in the countryside.

I like to go cycling, I try to cycle most days and at the weekends in wintertime. When I cycle I like to see and listen to the wildlife – the birds and the deer, and the bats in the summer. I like to take in the landscape that surrounds me: the produce - the potatoes, the sugar beet, the wheat. This is what it's like to live in the countryside. This is what it's like to live in an agricultural setting and this is why I chose to live here. (Note, in the hearing Sunnica claimed 96.2% of land was deemed poor quality soil. This seems very unusual as I see the crops growing in these fields year on year. Have the variety of the crops that grow here and their yields been assessed to verify this?).

These experiences are all changeable and I love the diversity when I cycle through this area season to season, harvest to harvest. It gives different variety to the landscape and I really value that.

I often see other cyclists – especially at the weekend, and there are regular cycling groups that use to roads around Chippenham and La Hogue in particular.

If Sunnica went ahead my regular journeys around Beck Road, Ferry lane, Station Road would be very different - looking out onto huge fields of glass and metal, surrounded by fencing, large substations and compounds full of containers with batteries, and security lighting. The proximity of this plant to Isleham and the community is perverse, imposing and inconsiderate.

It's unimaginable to think that all these fields growing produce would be replaced by this industrial proposal. It doesn't make sense to me. These don't belong in this area. The majority of people I speak to are not against solar. We already have many solar farms in this area. But these are not immediately surrounding villages. (I agree with Cllr Richard Rout at SCC - that this is a particularly badly designed scheme, far too close to villages, far too spread out and maximising impact on the landscape).

The pleasurable experience I have of living here would be removed. I don't want to live in such an industrial setting. It's not why I chose to invest in a home or to bring up my family here.

My children also have a very strong connection with the surrounding environment. They love watching the activity in the fields. My son while growing up was an avid admirer of all the different farm machines he saw in the fields here. Many a time we pulled over on Sheldricks Road or Beck Road when the potato harvesters have been in action or the combine harvesters and along Station Road when the hay balers and baler wrappers were at work. He could easily tell the difference between a New Holland, John Deer, Massey Ferguson and Claas Tractor at age 3 or 4. He was so enamoured that he'd ask for toy models to play with at home, all inspired by what he experienced every day in the fields around here.

Even today he still takes photos of the wildlife and crops around here because that's what he identifies with and enjoys. He loves the rural environment. Sunnica will take that away for the next 40 years of his life. The same goes for his school friends who also enjoy this rural location.

I feel very sad that if he stays here and has his own children, they would also be deprived of this rural experience. [REDACTED]. Any children he might have would be young adults by the time the project was removed. Goodness knows what a mess will be left behind for them. This is **not temporary** – it would affect all of the rest of my life, a very large portion of my sons life, and the early life of any children he may have.

The other thing that I briefly touched on in my written representation is the interaction between the villages here.

We live in Isleham but we regularly go to the surrounding villages. I've got friends who live in Red Lodge. They work in the racing industry and they are absolutely frightened of the prospect of job insecurity if this scheme goes ahead. They often talk about how they love riding out on the Limekilns and the prestige of Newmarket and the excellent facilities for horse racing here.

We've got friends in Freckenham - we regularly cycle out or walk there as a family along Sheldricks Road, Beck Road and Mortimer Lane to meet up with them. We often pass a few dog walkers along the way.

We enjoy cycling down to the River near the Marina – in the summer we often see a few kids on paddle boards or kayaks (6 of my children's classmates do this as a hobby). We go along the riverbank and usually head to West Row spotting the odd boat on the water and a few people fishing on the banks.

It's a lovely place. But this wouldn't be the same if the East A site went ahead as the outlook would be an industrial view of BESS containers, substations, panels. The rural nature would be gone.

This scheme surrounds us – I won't enjoy travelling around this area for exercise or to see our friends or just generally to go to the shops or pubs or to go swimming in the neighbouring towns and villages. It will no longer feel like we live in the countryside.

This whole proposal makes me incredibly sad and I would seriously consider moving away because this is not what I want for my children and I certainly don't want it for my children's children.

### Additional Points

In addition to the comments I raised above at the hearing in Newmarket I would like to point out that Sunnica's application makes no reference to securing this solar & battery plant from a cyber security perspective. This really surprised me as I work for Darktrace plc., a FTSE 250 cybersecurity company based in Cambridge and we work with many energy and utility companies in the UK, protecting national critical infrastructure.

Cyber criminals have been known to target such sites and any breach would be catastrophic. In the absence of cybersecurity controls threat actors would typically attempt to disrupt operational control. Considering this is a high-energy battery storage project with hazardous substances this concerns me a lot. The fact that this hasn't been considered highlights the inexperience and naivety of a company (Sunnica) attempting to design and implement one of the world's largest battery storage facilities.

Finally I would like to submit a letter from my neighbour who was unable to make it to the hearing in Newmarket. She wrote me a note which I was going to read out at the hearing but due to the time limit I was unable to. Zoe Vasso, a former Isleham resident who moved away and has recently moved back to the village, is equally concerned about this project affecting her quality of life. Thank you again for your consideration.



