

The parish council is based in a public building, which is a venue available for hire, including a hall and various facilities for sports. It attracts people of many backgrounds and various ages. There is a reasonable footfall of visitors to the building on a daily basis. This allows a crude method in surveying and acquiring personal views.

Residents, hirers of the venue, a running group, walking group, cyclists, parents, carers, conservationists, schools and many more have raised concerns of the Sunnica application, of which we will only mention a few.

We would like to take this opportunity to emphasise that Red Lodge has serious concerns for the planned location of the BESS (battery energy storage systems).

The plan has the potential to cause serious harm and damage, the hearing has discussed real risks, including explosions, the emission of toxic gases, risk of smoke inhalation, the need for ventilation of gases, pollution into the atmosphere and potential absorption of contaminants by soil and the uptake by plants and into the foodchain.

Sunnica have tried to give reassurances, by incorporating constant monitoring of these emissions and temperatures, to prevent the build-up of reactants. Critical cooling mechanisms to suppress any thermal activity, there are risks of arcing leading to potential fires. The gross magnitude of this plan, brings with it gross risks and our concern is why such large scale planning is considered so close to Red Lodge residents and the mitigations presented by Sunnica are inadequate in ensuring that this is a safe and appropriate development.

Earlier this week during the hearings, several battery explosions that have occurred worldwide were cited, if the battery technology is comprehensively understood, the scientists and engineers supporting the safety of the BESS, should have been able to predict and thus prevent these explosions, we should not be witnessing such explosions today. These do not instil confidence in the technology to warrant them so close to residents.

The risk of hydrofluoric acid was mentioned, with amounts emitted considered minimal by Sunnica. Human beings have varying degrees of sensitivities, a small amount of a chemical may not harm one human, however may have serious complications and act as a poison for another. The residents of Red Lodge should not be exposed to risks of such emissions at any levels.

The hearing heard that the technology for the BESS is continually in a state of development, It is logical therefore that until the understanding of the physics, science and maths are secure and complete, until the risks are calculated and counteracted based on real scale models rather than hypothetical models, the BESS should not be placed near life.

Red Lodge has a unique SSSI (site of special scientific interest), which can be accessed from the B1085, again in very close proximity to the BESS. There is no other heathland site in the Breckland area that is the same. The Red Lodge Heath is unique, it is home to a number of nationally rare plants and animals, such as the Five-banded Tailed Digger Wasp and Breckland Thyme.

The Red Lodge Conservation Group dedicate their valuable time, take great delight, care and are passionate in maintaining this area to ensure that these rare species are

protected. The conservation group is concerned if this heathland is subjected to chemical fumes, we could potentially lose these rare living species.

Red Lodge has 2 large primary schools and several nurseries within 1200 metres of the BESS, parents, grandparents and carers have rightfully expressed concerns of the consequences and separation anxiety in the eventuality of an incident.

Red Lodge will need designated personnel and a robust evacuation process implemented for the next 40 years to oversee evacuation of the residents of Red Lodge to safety and no doubt post trauma care.

The travellers site on Elms Road is within 300 metres of the BESS. This community was unaware due to inadequate consultation of the Sunnica plans and how these affect their safety and their views from their homes. There is a requirement that the communities that are affected are properly consulted, we have real concerns that this ethnic minority has been discriminated with the failure of appropriate consultation. Their homes will not be the same!

The charity Red Lodge Lightwave operates in Red Lodge to support the community needs, the support ranges from food supplies, provision of fuel, assistance with employment applications, to mental well-being. Post-Covid Lightwave have observed an increase in global poverty for this area and a deterioration in mental health, quite alarmingly also amongst the teenagers of Red Lodge.

The needs of the community have increased so much that the charity has outgrown the premises that they currently occupy and hire from the Red Lodge Parish Council and are now in desperate search of land for a purpose build to serve the ever growing community needs. Red Lodge does not need a development that will contribute stress and deteriorate the community further, the land can be used in a more constructive way to better support Red Lodge and it's neighbouring communities, as has been identified by this charity.

The proposed plans will harm and damage transport links, wildlife, plants and humans, with none or little value added for those that reside in this area.

In conclusion, the site proposed for the BESS needs to be reconsidered. The location should be remote and away from the residents of Red Lodge and in an industrilaised setting as recognized by Mp Matt Hancock, where the impact to life is nulled!

Furthermore, I would like to add that I also attend this hearing in the capacity as a resident of Red Lodge and share the concerns raised. The future well-being of the residents of the community, remains of paramount concern.