

Worlington Parish Council

Response to the Applicant in regards to Green Lane

Unique no: 20030919

Green Lane/ Badlingham Lane U6006

Worlington Parish Council would like to stress the importance of U6006, contrary to what Sunnica Ltd. have stated. It is a well used track and we believe it is vital to stay as such for the well-being and health of our residents and those further afield.

Usage

The applicant stating that few people use the area and therefore deem it unworthy to keep is unjustified. Though Worlington Parish council disagree with the applicants calculations of use, we would also like the inspectors to consider the %. Numbers in a small, rural community are never going to be in the hundreds. An example: if just five people were to use the track daily that is 10% of Worlington's population. This is another example of how being a small parish has made us insignificant in the eyes of the applicant.

This track is used daily by walkers, joggers, horse riders and cyclists. There are some who specifically drive here from further afield, to walk along a rural track sporadically lined with pines and oaks where the gaps provide views of fields beyond.

Access to vehicles

U6006 may be classed as an unkept road, a green lane, but though a four wheeled vehicle such as a car could possibly navigate the path it is unlikely this would be achievable without the vehicle causing substantial damage. In order to achieve easy vehicle navigation both trees and hedges would need to be removed.

Site Access

By creating site accesses the applicant has added a risk factor to those using the track.

What volume of vehicles will be crossing?

What type of vehicles?

What times of day will the crossing be used.

What happens if during construction or completion it is deemed too dangerous to allow public past?

Removal of Trees, hedging and scrub will affect both the vista and wildlife hides, nesting areas and roosting spots. WPC have submitted Bat surveys in our Written representation.

Bats

“A full bat roost survey will only be conducted before construction” and only it seems on the trees set for removal. Why would a survey be done after the fact.

The applicant talks of small areas with potential low risk when removing the trees. It is a cumulative effect:

- removal of trees
- addition of fencing
- addition of solar arrays
- construction noise
- disruption of flight paths for hunting

We reiterate:

Natural England have a published paper on their website dated 2017, Evidence review of the impact of solar farms on birds, bats and general ecology (NEER012) within this document it states “Based on this review, there is currently no experimental observational or theoretical scientific literature on the effect solar panels may have on bats”

The applicant is using outdated data that was never intended for installations of this size.

Addition of fencing

The applicant stated fencing will be placed along each side of the track. Though this may be placed behind the existing tree line it will be visible. Part of the beauty of this area is seeing the fields beyond where the trees thin. Deer often frequent this area but will no longer be able to pass through. A fence with gaps even for smaller animals like hedgehogs is still a fence, still a barrier to keep things apart.

Health and well being

Taking away one of two easily accessible walking routes and cutting our village off from our neighbours will have a devastating effect on the communities. The applicant states it will only be closed for a few weeks. The applicant fails to acknowledge they will be changing the vista to an industrialised one, crossing points with daily vehicle movement, added noise both during and after construction and the removal of trees and scrub and the addition of fencing. All of this will impact the area and take away the reason why it is now used.

Getting things wrong

The applicant has admitted several times to answering our and other's statements incorrectly. The latest was in regards to this very area.

For example:

- The applicant proposed tarmacking vehicle crossing points- on an earth lane
- Proposing an alternative route while the lane is closed along a 60mph road without foot paths.

To us this shows a lack of understanding to the countryside here, their answers are generalised and not thought through in regards to specific areas.

In conclusion

This is an historic trackway connecting ancient villages, documented in the Hodskinsons map of 1783 but far older-see written representation appendices item 6 pg47. An amenity space allowing direct access to the countryside where wildlife is abundant including several rare species. Is in its present form a valuable asset to our community. WPC are fearful this will be lost should the application be passed.