

**Deadline 8 - Response to 8.96 Applicant's Response to other parties' Deadline 6 submissions REP7-056**


Please accept this submission as my personal views on representations made up to and including Deadline 7.

- 1) Regarding the crash site comments on page 8 of REP7-056 it is unfortunate and surprising that the incident was not recorded on the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Records (HER) until 2021, particularly given the national attention that it drew, as well as the formal proceedings and investigations which followed.
- 2) I note that on the Major Accident Record (REP7-062) Isleham was listed under the county of Suffolk.
- 3) It is a shame that this report was not submitted sooner into the Examination to enable fairer access for people to review it.
- 4) In any event, the late addition of the site to the HER did not prevent Sunnica's awareness of the crash site, as it was mentioned to them in pre-application consultation responses (acknowledged in the Consultation Report APP-026), in Relevant Representations during the pre-Examination stage, and also in Written Representations.
- 5) The significant local heritage value of the crash area has been made clear in previous submissions by me (e.g. REP6-058, REP4-082, REP3a-055) and others, including the Isleham Society, a sizeable local heritage group (e.g. REP2-149). I will not repeat these points again here. The strong sentimental attachment that local people have to this site has also been previously explained; these people have commemorated and respected the tragedy and the site for many decades.
- 6) Regardless of what Sunnica may or may not be permitted to do with the field where the crash occurred and whether they do or do not obtain a license from the JCCC, there is a moral and ethical question as to whether development should take place at this site.
- 7) I, along with my friends/ family/ neighbours and many other local residents still maintain that the crash area should not be developed, for the reasons that I (and they) have set out in previous submissions. Fundamentally, this field represents the final place where the crew's last journey ended and this should be respected.
- 8) Even just over a week ago the Say No to Sunnica community group was contacted by one of the crew members' family (Appendix 1). Mr Stannard, whose great uncle lost his life in the tragedy, describes his concerns about the proposal, how he himself has visited the site and how important it is to his family.
- 9) A further representation was received recently from a local Isleham resident, who remembers the crash well, and who describes how it affected her and how she considers the crash area to be a 'grave' (Appendix 2).
- 10) These, in addition to the many representations shown in Isleham Parish Councils REP2-075, demonstrate the local value of the site and the fact that the memory of it is very much alive today.
- 11) To be clear, the word "site" does not mean one "crater." It means the site as a whole – i.e. the field in which the plane came down, exploded and scattered over a wide area (as described in the major accident record, as well as various newspaper reports).
- 12) As submitted previously, the proposed "bare minimum" approach to the handling of this site by Sunnica is disrespectful to the memories of the crew, their families (who still visit the site), their friends and to our local community, who have respected and preserved the site more or less in its original state for many decades.
- 13) It is not acceptable that our community's efforts to preserve the site from development, to respectfully retain the field as it was back then, and to ensure that it is visible for all to see and connect with for miles around, are so readily dismissed by Sunnica.

- 14) I support the submissions of Say No to Sunnica, Isleham Parish Council and the Isleham Society on the crash site (and other matters). I also note that the county and district councils have described Sunnica's plans for the crash site as "uninspired" and commented that they could go further to handle this more sympathetically (as discussed at ISH4). I agree with this.


### **Appendix 1**

*Comments from Mr Jeff Stannard, relative of one of the B50 crew*

	<b>Jeff Stannard</b> Sunnica Community Action Group, Yes to Solar, No to Living in a Power Plant
Do you have strong interests in the campaign regarding - tick all that apply	
<input type="checkbox"/> Heritage and acrchology, Construction and the impact, Agriculture and local economy	
Please state your concerns with Sunnica proposed scheme	
My great uncle was one of the air crew who all perished when a USAF B-50 Superfortress crashed next to Isleham on 13 October 1949. The proposed scheme will include the crash site, which I visited two years ago. The site is important to my family.	
Do you live or work in - select one	
<input type="radio"/> Outside UK	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agreed to group rules	

### **Appendix 2**

*Comments from Mrs Ina Hayes, who recalls being in Isleham Primary School at the time of the incident and how the tragedy affected her.*

My name is Ina Hayes   
I was about 8 or 9 when the aircraft crashed in Isleham.  
We were having a lesson about yams and the biggest loudest bang echoed through the school. We were all terrified as it was not long after the war and we thought the war had come back. As we all ran into the playground screaming, I got my leg stuck in a chair and dragged it with me into the playground. The air was thick with smoke and we were not allowed to leave the playground. There were fire engines and ambulances racing past our school. We didn't know what had happened for a while.  
It was many years before I went up to the field where it all happened I was still terrified.  
I'm sure all of the people who were there that are alive will never forget it and I often wonder why some plaque is not on the field where so many brave airman lost their lives. There have been relatives of the brave airmen visiting from the USA and what would they think if this 'grave' because it is a grave was covered in glass.  
Ina

Sent from my iPad