



Tattersalls

TATTERSALLS LTD • TERRACE HOUSE • NEWMARKET • SUFFOLK CB8 9BT

TEL +44 (0)1638 665931 • FAX +44 (0)1638 660850 • www.tattersalls.com • sales@tattersalls.com

The Rt Hon Grant Shapps
Energy Security and Net Zero
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

21st August 2023

Dear Secretary of State

**Application by Sunnica Ltd for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Sunnica Energy Farm
A Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP)**

You will be aware that the examination of the above proposal concluded in March 2023. On behalf of Tattersalls, a member of the Newmarket Horseman's Group we respectfully ask that you refuse this flawed application for the following reasons et al: -

1. Newmarket is pre-eminent in the world for the breeding and training of thoroughbred racehorses. The proposed scheme will degrade the setting of horse racing in Newmarket (including but extending beyond just landscape), and it will diminish Newmarket's place on the world stage as the premier location for horse racing and breeding. The equine industry makes a substantial financial contribution to Newmarket and the local economy through contributing well over £250 million annually, with over 3,000 direct full time equivalent employees and over 5,000 attributable jobs in the wider area.
2. However, Newmarket's horse racing industry is vulnerable; it depends on its pre-eminent position remaining as such else the impact will be to entice away to its competitor horse racing industries (in Ireland, Australia, France, Hong Kong, the Middle East, and the USA) not merely owners and horses but support staff and professionals.
3. In particular, the proposals will have a highly negative impact on the Limekilns Gallops, which are considered the best grass gallops in the world. Owners, prospective owners and investors are brought there as part of a tour to persuade them to invest in Newmarket and to see the spectacle of galloping horses in the

EDMOND MAHONY (CHAIRMAN)

ANDREW BEDFORD • GAVIN DAVIES • JAMES GEORGE • JOHN MORREY

COMPANY NUMBER 791113 • REGISTERED IN ENGLAND

TATTERSALLS (IRELAND) LTD • RATOATH • CO. MEATH • IRELAND • TEL DUBLIN +353 (0)1 8864300 • FAX +353 (0)1 8864303

early morning. The view is of a countryside setting, and dates back to the seventeenth century. It is unique and arguably the showpiece of Newmarket. The impact of an industrial backdrop of photovoltaic panels and a substation will materially harm the prospect of an owner investing in Newmarket.

During the examination the Examining Authority received a significant amount of evidence from multiple experts and local people outlining the many flaws of this ill-conceived poorly located and badly designed scheme.

In addition to the considerable concern of the impact upon the horse racing industry, the examination authority received evidence from highly qualified experienced experts regarding:

- the negative and harmful impacts the Sunnica scheme would have on the landscape and the inaccuracies in the applicants' assessments.
- the harmful impacts the scheme would have on valued heritage assets and on local wildlife and the lack of adequate consideration and underestimates of this harm on the part of the applicant.
- the inaccuracies of the applicant's soil quality assessments with the area known throughout the UK for its highly versatile and highly productive irrigated arable land.

During the examination the Examining Authority were left in no doubt about the significant level of opposition including local parish town and district councils, two county councils, local MP, s the combined authority mayor, local businesses, and from local residents.

It should be noted that both Tattersalls and the Newmarket Horsemen's Group is not opposed to the construction of photovoltaic generation in the United Kingdom. We recognise the climate emergency and the policy at local and national level that indicates strongly in the favour of the construction of a renewable energy generation. However, we remain fundamentally opposed to the Sunnica scheme because it is not an effective use of land and is an example of bad solar which causes disproportionate harm to the location, local economy, and local communities.

We respectfully ask that you refuse this flawed application and ensure that it does not set a precedent for further poorly designed and badly located schemes that will hinder our net zero ambitions.

Yours sincerely,



Edmond Mahony
Chairman