

## SUNNICA ENERGY FARM PROPOSAL

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The Parish Council has objected to the Sunnica Energy Farm proposal due to the size and impact on the local area. In coming to this decision, the Council has taken the following action:

- Discussed and considered the application at parish council meetings
- Raised concerns with East Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council
- Written to Sunnica stating objections and concerns
- Raised our concerns with our local MP, Lucy Frazer
- Sent representatives to a meeting of local parish councils
- Attended a tour of another local solar energy scheme
- A parish councillor is representing Chippenham on the parish council group
- An open meeting is being arranged with Lucy Frazer
- The Parish Council has asked for positions of ECDC and Lucy Frazer

The Parish Council objected for the following specific reasons:

- Consultation process - not enough time or meaningful information has been provided to allow residents, the parish council and other interested parties to fully consider this proposal
- The total size of the development is too large
- It is still unclear the exact location and size of the development. No further plans have been issued following the withdrawal of one of the landowners
- The chosen location of the development – the council objects to the project using viable agricultural land rather than brownfield sites or sites such as alongside road junctions where the visual impact is less important and the ground cannot be used for other purposes. The land earmarked for this project has access to irrigation and can and does grow root vegetables and cereal crops. The council cannot support a scheme that takes productive arable land out of production
- Lack of clear understanding on how the development will impact wildlife and allow for healthy ground conditions

The Parish Council also requested answers from Sunnica to the following questions:

- What is the possibility of permanent change of use status for the land in question and how will this impact small rural villages?
- How will the scheme impact wildlife and ecology?
- How will the developers mitigate the impact of the scheme on the locality?
- Why have the developers chosen to target productive agricultural land rather than less fertile land?
- What size scheme would still be economical enough to justify a large dedicated cable route?
- Could the scheme be more acceptable if downsized to the point where a single large dedicated grid connection is not required?
- Could the scheme be better managed with a CLT or other community based involvement?
- What is the impact on the local area during construction and whilst the solar panels are in place?

- What is Sunnica offering to the community in terms of compensation for having this scheme on their doorstep?
- Are any of the materials in the scheme hazardous?
- How is the removal of panels and making good of the land going to be managed?
- What will happen about public footpaths, bridle paths and rights of way?

To date, we have not received a response from Sunnica.

The Parish Council will keep residents informed of any further developments.