Submission ID: 10666

1) Comments on the draft timetable proposed (Annex D)

On 4th May 2022 the ExA requested feedback on Sunnica's request for a delay to proceedings and for comments about their proposed Examination timetable (which Sunnica has requested should be pushed back into the peak holiday season, and started "no earlier than 18th July 2022.―)

I replied to this request for feedback on 18th May 2022 (at 17:52), expressing concerns at the examination starting without the amendments to the DCO application having been clarified, and outlining the difficulty that I (along with other local residents) would face trying to review revised application documents, re-assess the impacts on me and my local area, and finalise my Written Representations within the short deadlines of the Examination.

Unfortunately my fears have come true. I have spent many hours researching and actively engaging with all aspects of this Sunnica proposal. I have done this as a novice on planning matters, which has required a considerable amount of work, whilst juggling work commitments and looking after 2 young children. I know that a number of others have done the same.

It will be incredibly difficult for me to find additional extra time over the school holiday period to re-review documents, assess them and finalise my Written Representations and I really feel that this will hamper my ability to participate in the process, even though I have spent much of the last 2 years preparing to do so. I feel that we are being held to ransom by Sunnica in some respects, who seem to be allowed to propose a timetable that suits them and prejudices local residents.

The school summer holidays will begin for my children on 22nd July, after which time I will have 2 young children at home during the day. I intend to do my utmost to make arrangements to that I can attend the Preliminary Meeting and initial hearings, as I really want to be able to fully participate in the Examination.

But I respectfully ask that you consider at the very least postponing deadline 2 (submission of Written Representations) until mid-September at the earliest to allow time for me and my fellow local residents to assess the scheme changes (hoping that they will have been clarified by then).

I will be unable to do this if the deadline remains 30th August for the following reasons

- A) I do not have enough childcare provision during the school holiday period to allow me the extra time I would need to re-review Sunnica's revised DCO application documents and assess their impacts. The short notice means that holiday clubs etc are now fully booked.
- B) I am still awaiting clarification from Sunnica about the proposed changes, which I raised with them during the recent consultation (both via email and in person when I attended one of the public events), but this hasn't as yet been forthcoming. The information available on the changes was inadequate, and the representatives that I spoke to at the public exhibitions didn't seem to be fully aware of the details of the proposed changes. I need their proposals clarifying before I can finalise my representations. Until this happens I feel that my hands are tied, but I would still be held to a 30th August deadline. I feel this is unfair.
- C) I am on a pre-booked vacation from 14th August 31st August inclusive, so I will not be able to upload any representations during this time.

I do appreciate that the ExA is also under pressure to ensure that this examination happens in a timely manner, and that it is achieved within 6 months of the Examination starting. I dare say that Sunnica's delay request has also caused the ExA some logistical problems too.

However, I do feel that my inability to complete my reps (for the reasons outlined above) in time for the suggested Deadline 2 is very much the fault of Sunnica Ltd, and I do hope that I and other residents, will not be prejudiced as a result of this.

2) Comments about ongoing examination:

Having meetings / hearings available virtually and in person is to be encouraged to help people engage.

Please avoid having multiple deadlines running simultaneously. For example, the past 3 weeks have been incredibly difficult to manage, as Sunnica was holding it's consultation on their changes to the scheme until 6th July. Information about the changes was only just being fed to the public in the closing days of their consultation period so I, like most others, had to respond to their consultation towards the end of the consultation period.

Whilst we were still trying to clarify the changes that were being proposed, the ExA issued a 48-page Rule 6 letter. This was a difficult document to read and digest, with technical terminology etc that required considerable time to decipher. Trying to manage this and respond to the 13th July Deadline A that was listed within the 48 page letter has been a challenge to say the least. As mentioned previously, I have no previous experience of planning matters so am trying to understand this process and the jargon as best I can, while still managing work, childcare etc. Having the Rule 6 letter issued while the Sunnica consultation was ongoing has been difficult. I know that others feel quite overwhelmed too.

- 3) comments on initial List of Principal Issues
- -Discussion on the carbon neutral credentials of the scheme/ the carbon assessments
- -Impact of the application on animal health (only human heath is mentioned)
- Requirement for Hazardous Substances Consent
- 4) suggested subjects for Issue Specific Hearings.
- -The capacity of the BESS for the proposed site
- Inadequacy of Consultation on the latest changes

From:

To: Sunnica Energy Farm

Subject: Sunnica sites to be visited - submission for Deadline A

Date: 14 July 2022 00:06:11

Dear Examining Authority,

I am so sorry - I forgot to add suggestions of sites to be visited to my Deadline A submission. I cannot figure out a way to add another item to my submission now that it has been sent.

If at all possible, please could the following be considered?

Many thanks,

Catherine Judkins

(IP no. 20031441)

Suggested site to visit during the examination:

Using Sunnica's Figure 10-12 on visual receptors I would suggest the following points are visited;

- 1) Area marked 1. Opposite East Fen drove. Open aspect across to East A from the River Lark. Beautiful, peaceful setting along the riverbank. Popular footpath linking Isleham to West Row. Used by walkers, joggers etc and the waterways are used to access the marina and the rest of the River Lark (recreationally and by people living there permanently). This is also an important heritage and religious site. Parking is near the Marina and it is possible to walk across a bridge to the site.
- 2) Areas marked 4 and 5 views from the Ark Church, looking down over East A and the open vista from along Sheldricks rd and Beck Rd. Parking at the Ark carpark.

This is a main route in/ out of Isleham, so very well used. Changing the wide open, agricultural vista to an industrial zone would be a significant and dramatic change to the landscape. There would be no effective screening for this, so it would always remain highly visible.

- 3) Triangular field between Sheldricks rd and the Lee Brook, adjacent to Beck rd. Site of WW2 plane crash. Historic importance to Isleham residents in particular. There is an area of hard standing off Beck rd that can be used to visit this.
- 4) Area marked 11, looking North, East and West. Junction between Mortimer lane footpath and Beck Rd. Mortimer lane connects Isleham to Freckenham. This is a popular footpath for walkers, dog walkers, joggers, etc. The impact as you exit the footpath onto Beck Rd is significant and cannot be screened due to the natural wide open vista.
- 5) U6006. Part of the historic Icknield Way. Areas marked 15 and 15a on the Sunnica map. Best to park in Worlington (residential roads close to the start of U6006) and walk down towards Badlingham direction. Sturdy footwear recommended. Beautiful lane and bridal way, lined with ancient trees and hedgerows. Brimming with wildlife and an important area for bats. Would have solar panels either side and cabling.