

Linda Homan speech at the Sunnica hearing 6th December 2022

Dear folks, I am speaking today to represent the unheard and the unwell.

I have friends in some of the many villages impacted by this scheme, but in particular I have both friends and family in Isleham and Red Lodge. I want to draw attention to the serious topic of mental health

Prevalence -

1 in 6 people report experiencing a common mental health problem (like anxiety and depression) in any given week in England¹

1 in 4 people will experience a more serious mental health problem of some kind each year in England

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£ Mental ill health costs UK employers approximately £56 billion each year.

Source: Mental Health Statistics and Prevalence UK

Taking 40k people from parish registers- "using 6% statistic- that 6% of our population already have / experience a common mental health problem- that equates to 666 people already vulnerable that this scheme will impact on " who knows the total number when there are many more- like myself who will be impacted on our daily and weekly driving to and from places which pass these awful sites-

The Sunnica scheme is already having a heavy toll on the MH of my family, friends, and myself.

Yes, there is a thing called Eco-Anxiety (Wessinger, 2019; Mkono, 2020; Panu, 2020).

It is the impact upon mental health cause by concerns for the deterioration of the environment, first coined in 2017 by the American Psychological Society (Nugent, 2019).

The anxiety about climate change is real enough and many people think that solar is helping to solve this. However, for the 40,000+ residents in the 8-9 villages impacted by this scheme, the destruction of the natural habitat, the decimation of observable countryside is real, and it is distressing.

My family report to me that their fears of not being able to see open fields and farming, which has been part of their lives in this area for decades. They report the fears of the unknown such as how much of the land scape will be affected and how the road congestion will be there for many years. They report the concerns over fires " as we have family in Liverpool less than 2 miles from the serious explosion and fire of a battery plant which had only been in place for 09 months- this took at least 15 hours to put out and mean-while toxic smoke and toxic water run off poured into the environment.

This was real- it happened and we visited the twisted metal on the site. There were only three battery containers there- nothing near the amount of battery storage which this scheme is imposing.

Social experiment "

Really, these 8-9 communities will be a large social experiment " no one knows what the impact on these rural communities will be. Please do not subject us to this. Surely common sense must play a part in this. I am sure those who have been to the viewing areas, considered the beautiful sights which will be decimated for 40+ years- and perhaps forever. Please do not subject us to this horror. Thank you.

Linda Homan

Additional points, evidence base for speech (references) below:

Overcrowding and lack of countryside " ratio per person in England:

There are 432 people per square kilometre of land in England - we need our countryside

Wind uses less land " comparison of land use and power output- wind vs. solar:

Wind can produce about forty-eight thousand times the amount of energy per kWh than a solar panel can.

A windfarm of 25 MW may cause approximately 12 ha of habitat loss - A solar farm generating 25 MW will take up approximately 50 ha.

[REDACTED]

Evidence base for speech:

Research which evidences that access to green spaces improves mental health:

Dadvand, P., Bartoll, X., Basagaña, X., Dalmau-Bueno, A., Martinez, D., Ambros, A., ... & Nieuwenhuijsen, M. J. (2016). Green spaces and general health: roles of mental health status, social support, and physical activity. *Environment international*, 91, 161-167.

Frumkin, H., Bratman, G. N., Breslow, S. J., Cochran, B., Kahn Jr, P. H., Lawler, J. J., ... & Wood, S. A. (2017). Nature contact and human health: A research agenda. *Environmental health perspectives*, 125(7), 075001.

Romanelli, C., Cooper, D., Campbell-Lendrum, D., Maiero, M., Karesh, W. B., Hunter, D., & Golden, C. D. (2015). Connecting global priorities: biodiversity and human health: a state of knowledge review. World Health Organization/Secretariat of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.

Vanaken, G., & Danckaerts, M. (2018). Impact of green space exposure on children's and adolescents' mental health: A systematic review. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 15(12), 2668.

World Health Organization. (2016). Urban green spaces and health (No. WHO/EURO: 2016-3352-43111-60341). World Health Organization. Regional Office for Europe.

Eco-Anxiety

Mkono, M., 2020. Eco-anxiety and the flight shaming movement: Implications for tourism. *Journal of Tourism Futures*.

Nugent, C. 2019. [Online] available at: [REDACTED]

Panu, P., 2020. Anxiety and the ecological crisis: An analysis of eco-anxiety and climate anxiety. *Sustainability*, 12 (19), pp.7836.

Wessinger, K. A., 2019. Eco-Anxiety in the Age of Climate Change: An Adlerian Approach. [Online] Available at: [REDACTED]

Battery explosion in Carnegie Road Liverpool:

[REDACTED]

59 Hours to fully extinguish the batter fire:

[REDACTED]