

From: Townclerk <Townclerk@newmarket.gov.uk>
Sent: 15 January 2025 14:51
To: Kingsway Solar Farm
Subject: Fw: Submission regarding Kingsway Solar Farm

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Submission on behalf of Newmarket Town Council
Mayor: Cllr Philippa Winter, Town Clerk: Cathy Whitaker email address townclerk@newmarket.gov.uk

Kingsway Solar Farm

We would like to place a marker that, whilst supportive of green and sustainable energy and energy security, we strongly object to such a scheme even being considered. Concerns include the enormous scale proposed of nearly 4,000 acres, some 50% larger than the recently approved Sunnica scheme, despite the recommendation from the Examining Authority (ExA) to withhold consent, which itself will detrimentally impact on the visual and physical environment in a highly rural and attractive countryside area with picturesque public footpaths and rights of way and, importantly, remove valuable available agricultural land when food security is also of major importance. This new proposal carries the same concerns and, further, the potential for the town to effectively be encircled by a swathe of thousands of acres of solar panels. Additionally we have concerns regarding the disruption during construction, the technical aspects of the scheme (such a battery storage/potential fire risk, connection to the National Grid). Such applications also seem piecemeal / developer-driven rather than part of a cohesive energy plan / strategy which the Government should surely be taking a lead on (e.g. local power for local people to reduce the disruption with cables and pylons as well as the timescale for connecting to the National Grid and to get a local buy-in, etc)."

Regards,

Cathy Whitaker

Clerk to Newmarket Town Council

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