

As most of you are aware Sunnica presented their proposal to the Planning Inspectorate (PI) on the 16th December and as suspected the PI accepted the submission for examination in the first week of January.

We are now waiting for the Planning Inspectorate to publish the dates and process for Interested Parties to register - this is imminent and you may have as little as 28 days in which to register.

The Parish Alliance are now working with a Q.C. - John Steel (put forward by the Jockey Club, Newmarket) who held a brief meeting with the Parish Alliance in the week before Christmas. John will be supported by two junior assistants Dan Kozeol and Victoria Hutton.

John outlined the areas he will be focusing on, those he feels will have the greatest impact on the examination process being conducted by the PI. The points are:

1. The villages have existed for 100's of years and have "charm & historical value" - Sunnica are creating an industrial area for at least the next 40 years which will change the face of the area, for many of us that's the rest of our lifetime
 - this will contain a challenge to the agricultural land status and its impact and decommissioning in 40 years time
2. Big focus on the Battery Stations and their safety (proximity of schools) as well as the very industrial look
3. The cumulative impact on Footpaths, Bye-ways, Bridlepaths, etc... it demolishes community spirit and the enjoyment of the area - effectively an impact on lifestyle
4. The equestrian industry feels it will be impacted - many trainers and visitors come to the area not just for the equestrian events, but to enjoy the ambience of the area, using the local hotels and pubs to stay in the area while visiting
 - this will also include the visual impact from the Limekilns
5. The land acquisition through compulsory purchase (such as land under acquisition at Le Hogue and potential front garden space to widen roads for large vehicle access). Included in this category John is focusing on Highways impact of large load vehicles.
6. Technological advancement in future - Solar is a stop gap and isn't part of the governments future strategy, so why utilise such a large area now when the focus on Green & Net Zero will change in the near future.

He impressed upon the group the need to ensure everyone who has an 'interest' must register their interest in the 28 day window. Registering doesn't commit the person, (organisation, institution) to do anything else, but does 'buy' them the right to speak at future PI examination meetings. Registering an interest as an individual does not stop you registering an interest as part of a business, school, organisation, etc... so the Parish Council should register, but so should each individual Parish Councillor (if of course you feel you have an concern / issue).

More importantly, the registered interests will focus the examining body to where they should concentrate their attention (what the residents of the area have concerns about), so he felt residents should at least include one of the points listed above if not more (I think we know what the primary focus of those in Red Lodge should be!) , remembering each interested party only has a maximum of 500 words to express their interest.

Finally the Parish Alliance have also instructed a Landscape Consultant (Michelle Bulger). Michelle is focusing on the visual impact and has asked for each village to submit to the Parish Alliance a summary of its potential impact.