

CHIPPENHAM PARISH COUNCIL.

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PARISH CLERK: MRS SALLY HUGHES
CHIPPENHAMPARISHCOUNCIL@HOTMAIL.COM

27th July 2019

RTRB-LUJ-AGBY
C/O Newgate Communications
50 Basinghall Street
London
EC2V 5DE

Sunnica Energy Farm

Dear Sir

In regards to the proposal of Sunnica Energy Farm I am writing to inform you that Chippenham Parish Council object to the development for the following reasons:

- Consultation process - not enough time or meaningful information has been provided to allow residents, 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 viable arable land out of production.
- Lack of clear understanding on how the development will impact wildlife and allow for healthy ground conditions

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The parish council would like to see detailed answers to the following points about the scheme:

1. What is the possibility of permanent change of use status for the land in question and how will this effect small rural villages?
2. How will the scheme impact wildlife and ecology?
3. How will the developers mitigate the impact of the scheme on the locality?
4. Why have the developers chosen to target productive agricultural land rather than less fertile land?
5. What size scheme would still be economical enough to justify a large dedicated cable route?
6. Could the scheme be more acceptable if downsized to the point where a single large dedicated grid connection is not required?
7. Could the scheme be better managed with a CLT or other community based involvement?
8. What is the impact on the local area during construction and whilst the solar panels are in place?
9. What is Sunnica offering to the community in terms of compensation for having this scheme on their doorstep?
10. Are any of the materials in the scheme hazardous?
11. How is the removal of panels and making good of the land going to be managed?
12. What will happen about public footpaths, bridle paths and rights of way?

It is for the above reasons that Chippenham Parish Council cannot support this application in its current form or at its current scale.

Yours faithfully

Sally Hughes
Clerk
Chippenham Parish Council