

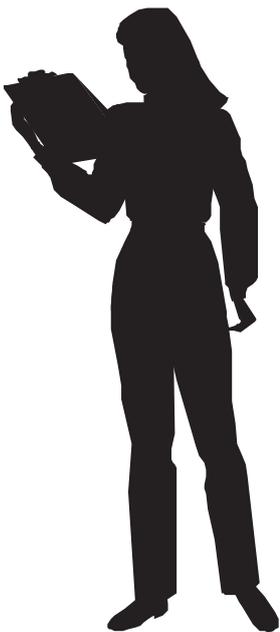
VIEWPOINT CARDS

These cards represent the views of local people in areas where poly tunnels are used for the production of strawberries. They can be used for sorting activities, as evidence to support opinions etc.

- ◆ Fact or opinion? Discuss why people have different views.
Can the children write a factual card?
- ◆ Sort into views for/against/ balanced view.
- ◆ Can you find opposing views?
- ◆ Use to inform role play, debates, writing a balanced report or persuasive writing.
- ◆ Answering questions:
What are the advantages of poly tunnels?
What are the disadvantages of poly tunnels?
Is it a good idea to grow strawberries using poly tunnels?
- ◆ Use as evidence for true/false activities. Give children statements such as:
Farming with poly tunnels creates employment.
Ask the children to find evidence from the card and decide that the statement is true, false, or there is not enough evidence.
- ◆ Diamond ranking. Ask the children to complete a blank card with their own viewpoint. They can then collect cards to support their argument and rank them according to their importance.
- ◆ Create a data base on program such as Junior Viewpoint.

Nicky Brown

Teaching Assistant at Village school
Lives in local town



I am concerned about the sheer volume of people that descend on Leominster and Herefordshire at this time of the year. Many local people are both suspicious and frustrated at the sight of so many foreign people walking on the local roads and shopping in the supermarkets.

Naomi Bennett

Teaching Assistant at Village school
Lives in local town



Whilst realising the importance of the tunnels in order to prolong the fruit growing season in our county, I do find them quite intrusive on the landscape. From a Tourist Board point of view, a landscape covered by poly tunnels does not help those trying to attract tourists to Herefordshire.

Tom Stockton

Retired agricultural worker
Lives in village

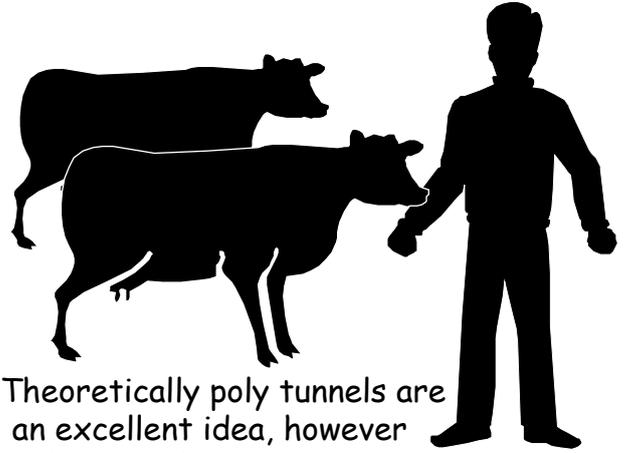


For some farmers following foot and mouth, poly tunnels saved their farms.

But you can have too much of a good thing. Now tunnels are seen to be the way forward and we will see less cattle and sheep in the fields and more food imported which adds to the cost and transport add to global warming.

Andy Gordon

Dairy Farmer
Lives on a farm



Theoretically poly tunnels are an excellent idea, however they may have knock on consequences which we may not have already considered. I worry that poly tunnels are causing long lasting damage to the environment as there are issues regarding rotation.

Phyllis Johnson

Old Age Pensioner
Lives in a town



I would like to go back fifty years and see the orchards and animals return to the fields. I think that poly tunnels are an eyesore and I don't like seeing them.

Phil Judson

Local Government worker
Lives in local town



Poly tunnels serve a purpose and do not have any detrimental effects. They are temporary structures and therefore harmless in the long term.

Karen Brunton

Shopworker
Lives in local town

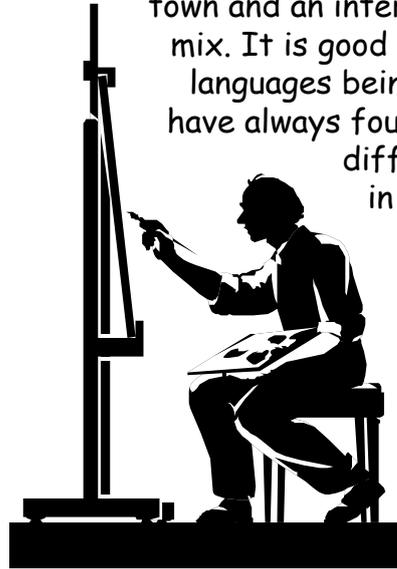
I used to live in the village, but I'm glad that I don't live there at the moment, as poly tunnels are an eyesore and you don't know what sort of people are around at all hours. There are too many immigrants in Herefordshire taking local jobs away from the kids leaving school.



Graham Thomas

Local artist
Lives in town

I enjoy the influx of young people, they bring trade to the town and an interesting cultural mix. It is good to hear other languages being spoken - I have always found the lack of different cultures in Herefordshire to be boring.



Ruth Townsend

Secretary
Lives in local town



The welfare of the majority of the fruit pickers seems to be of secondary concern to the managers of the strawberry producers. This in turn creates pressure on the pickers and the community.

Susan Phillips

Nurse
Lives in town

I prefer organic gardening/growing and would not

eat the produce. The countryside looks dreadful with the poly tunnels and it is very sad to lose traditional ways of farming.



Beth Walker

School Governor
Lives in local hamlet

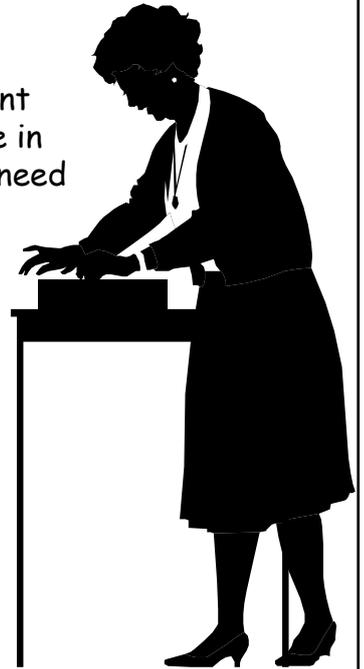
The workers I have met have been polite and respectful but they almost outnumber the local population. The town is not well equipped to cope with so many migrant workers and their needs. I also have issues with monoculture and would like to see more concessions to the wild life.



Mandy South

School teacher
Lives in village

Due to the current economic climate in farming, farmers need to diversify, for example racing tracks, farm shops and so on; This is just a change in farming. Whist I would not like to see poly tunnels taking over our countryside, I am not against them altogether.



Lily Clifton

Mother of young children
Lives in local village

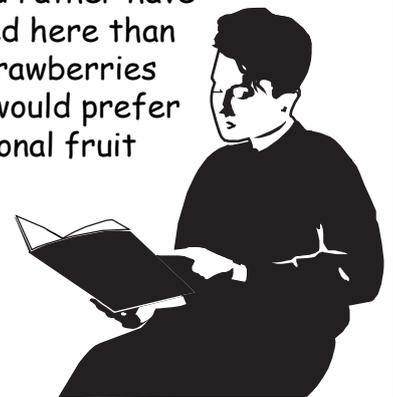


I am concerned about the safety of driving on our lanes which are not designed for a high density of farm workers.

Laura Penrose

School teacher
Lives in village

I worry that poly tunnels damage the landscape and there seems to be many more fields of them each year. However I would rather have poly tunnels used here than have to buy strawberries from abroad. I would prefer it if only seasonal fruit were sold.



Ben Trevor

School pupil
Lives in local village



The tunnels look very untidy; they spoil the views and make a noise in the wind. When the farmers have finished using the fields they don't clear all the rubbish from the workers and the plastic from the tunnels. So it is bad for the wildlife.

Heather Dobson

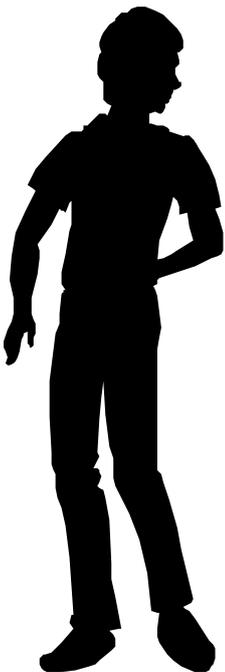
School pupil
Lives on a farm



I don't like poly tunnels except they do grow good strawberries. But the tunnels block the bridle paths so that you can't ride your pony there. They look messy and the trouble is you can still see them from miles away.

James Morris

School pupil
Lives in local town



I don't think that there is anything wrong with poly tunnels. The tunnels mean that strawberries can be grown for longer because it keeps them warm. I like strawberries.

Fiona Mountford

School pupil
Lives in hamlet



I think that farmers should get permission from the local council before putting up tunnels. It interferes with nature, is a waste of a good site and must be very hot for the workers in the summer.