



The Planning Inspectorate  
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Date: December 5<sup>th</sup> 2014  
Contact: Mr David Barnes  
Our Ref:  
Your Ref:  
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FAX:

Dear Sirs,

**RE: Application by Navitus Bay Development Ltd for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Navitus Bay Wind Park – Examination**

Some Members of the public locally have raised concerns about Christchurch Borough Council and East Dorset District Council's non attendance at the recent Examination hearings on the basis of comments made during the inspection by the Examining Inspector.

I am therefore writing to clarify the position of Christchurch Borough Council and East Dorset District Council with regards to the above planning application and Examination. You will be aware first of all that as separate and sovereign Councils two Local Impact Reports were submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, in writing and with supporting information. These written submissions were prepared by external professional experts in conjunction with officers and approved at the appropriate level by each Council.

At the point of submission the Councils were under the strong impression that the Inspector would give great weight to the written representations and approved statements including Relevant Representations, Local Impact Reports and Statements of Common Ground. Oral evidence would be secondary and only important where additional information could be imparted. At that time and on that premise the Councils, having already invested valuable resources into this application in recognition of its importance, had covered the key issues in our written and approved submissions.

For clarity the Planning Inspectorate wrote to the councils on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September with a Rule 8 letter setting out the examination timetable and procedure. As part of this letter there was a requirement for local authorities to inform PINs by the 20<sup>th</sup> October regarding which issue specific hearing sessions we intended to attend and whether we wished to make oral representations. In response to this we informed you in writing that we wished to attend the hearing session on the Development Consent Order on the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2015.

Subsequently, one week before the hearing sessions commenced in November the Planning Inspectorate issued agendas for the issue specific hearings which included reference to Christchurch and East Dorset Councils to attend on a number of issue specific hearings sessions, a number of which were unrelated to our Local Impact Reports. We again

informed you that we would not be attending the hearings in November as previously advised and stated issues where we could defer to DCC and Natural England and that we would be happy to respond in writing to questions directed at the local authorities if required.

We have recently received additional action points from the Inspectorate that we are responding to for the deadline of the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014. Additionally, we will respond as required to any further questions issued by the Examining Authority.

We still intend to attend the only further hearing that is relevant for the councils, namely the Development Consent Order session on the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2015.

I hope this clarifies our position in this matter and I would be grateful if, by return, you could provide me with some reassurance firstly that the comments made by the Inspector were on the basis of being unaware of the clear reasoning we had followed in taking the decision not to attend the hearings. Secondly, that had the Inspector been aware of the reasoned approach we have taken they would not have commented more favourably on our non appearance at the hearings. Thirdly, that our non appearance will not in any way prejudice our position in respect of the determination of this application.

Yours sincerely,



David Barnes  
Strategic Director  
Christchurch and East Dorset Councils