



EYE TOWN COUNCIL

Email: townclerk@eyesuffolk.org

Town Clerk: Wendy Alcock

13 July 2020

Dear Progress Power Ltd

Regulation 6 notice Progress Power – EN 010060 (Gas Fired Power Station) order 2015 and subsequent amendments

Eye Town Council refers to your application to have the time for starting works on site deferred for one year and offers no comments on this.

Given the investment that has been made in progressing the application the council considers a start on site likely and is keen to build a relationship with your design and construction team to deliver a successful project focussing on community benefits. In this context the council has re-visited your website [drax.com/about-us/our projects](http://drax.com/about-us/our-projects) and with the elapse of time would like to table some concerns and invite your comments to address them.

First the council does not, and this is from an individual stakeholder perspective, agree with the statement in the 'our projects' section of your web-site that 'the views of local residents, businesses and other interest groups were crucial in shaping the final planning application'. Indeed an interrogation of the documents on the year to year section does not really yield a final appraisal of what the whole site will look like as constructed and therefore the impact on the landscape, which on any view, will be considerable. Thus, we do not feel in a position to appraise what the 'final planning application' actually looks like.

The design must have developed considerably since the last consultation meeting the council attended, held in the Eye Community Centre. Elevations and plans then were still described as 'indicative' and shown in valleys rather than on a raised plateau, which is the case here, and similar adjectives to this are still evident in the key documents section of your web-site.

Could Eye Town Council then request to be sent two hard copies (as we do not have the capacity to print large layouts to scale) of the following:

1. The precise location on a site plan of the main power station, showing its position in relation to other businesses, the A140 and Castleton Way?
2. The sub-station showing its area in relation to the existing settlements.
3. The plans and elevations of each showing the finishes proposed and a scale of 1:100 so heights can be determined. There still seem to be some 'barn like' sketches for the sub- station which would be welcome, but we suspect will not be a final design.
4. The landscaping mitigation (there is a detailed statement on the website but no drawing or photographic detail that the council has been able to locate which offers a clear picture)

Eye Town Council recognises that, with favourable economic circumstances, this power station is highly likely to be built. To this end an early and open working relationship is to be encouraged which we do not consider has been the entirely case to date. It may be that design and other detail has genuinely not been available but surely must ne now. There is a gap of two years in the 'Key Documents' section of your web-site and the council would be grateful to be brought up to date.

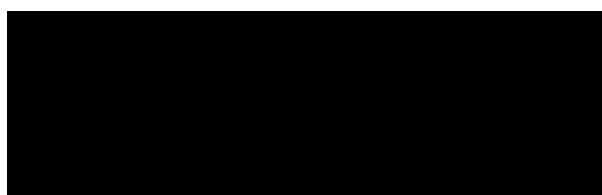
The website also cites a 'community benefits' section and that details of this will be available 'in due course'. The council would like to engage with your company on shaping these now. Our interest would centre on education and training opportunities for younger people and families as housing is potentially to be provided to make it attractive for this demographic group to grow in Eye. This is clearly set out in our Neighbourhood Plan (copy available on council's website) and your company's presence could help to make this a reality. There would of course be the expectation of other community benefits of the type mentioned at the last consultation meeting being delivered as applicable to the Community Benefit Fund.

Your company's Corporate Social Responsibility Policy was also raised, and the Council would be pleased to receive an updated copy of this for review. A lengthy corporate Drax document was received in response to a request after a consultation meeting, but we felt this did not address CSR in adequate detail as applicable to this project.

Eye Town Council recognises that this project will be built if it fits your company's business modelling. We will work with you and neighbouring parishes to minimise the adverse visual impact of the development, which even the most ardent supporter would not try and argue would be minimal, on what is a raised plateau landscape.

Please work with us at a local level to seek to mitigate the visual impact of the construction and maximise the benefits which we hope will be significant and have the potential to be so. If you would like to meet with us to discuss any matter and hopefully form a working partnership forum you would be welcome to discuss this during a visit to Eye.

Yours Sincerely



Cllr Richard Berry
Chair of Planning Committee

Wendy Alcock
Town Clerk