

Necton Parish Council Boreas Representation: Statements of Common Ground

Necton Parish Council (NPC) are concerned with their lack of consultation and involvement with Vattenfall through the Boreas project process before and during the Planning Inspectorate examination.

There have been no meetings between Vattenfall and NPC regarding the Boreas project DCO. NPC had their own Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) for the Vanguard project but has been completely ignored for Boreas. Since the Boreas project will install a large amount of additional infrastructure at Necton, would the Planning Inspectorate support a Boreas NPC SoCG or accept submission of the one produced for Vanguard as a suitable addition to the examination library?

On 4th February 2020, at a meeting with the Breckland Council representative who signed off their SoCG with Vattenfall, the NPC Boreas sub-committee were told that there is no obligation for Breckland Council to consult with NPC with regard to their SoCG. The first NPC knew of the Breckland SoCG was when it was posted on the Planning Inspectorate Boreas website.

Necton parish are about to host the largest substation in the world, consisting of huge buildings that will never fit into the rural environment, and have not been consulted by either Breckland or Vattenfall regarding the visual or any other aspects of the Boreas part of the project. The Breckland SoCG has accepted all the design and mitigation statements made by Vattenfall. No representative of Breckland Council has actually visited the proposed site for the converter halls. No representative of Breckland Council has visited the nearby site recommended by NPC. NPC is concerned that no statutory consultee is representing the interests of Necton parish.

At the meeting on 4 February referred to above, The Breckland Council representative admitted that he had no knowledge of the shortcomings of the noise mapping undertaken by Vattenfall. He also admitted that he had no knowledge of the lack of accuracy (+/- 2.5 m every 5m for rural topography) associated with the photomontages produced by Vattenfall. He said that he will look into reviewing and updating the Breckland SoCG. However, he will shortly be moving to a new job and will be unable to do this work himself. There are so many documents associated with the Boreas DCO that NPC are concerned that no one at Breckland Council will have time to pick up this important role effectively.

NPC are concerned that the Planning Inspectorate Examining Authority may be misled into thinking that local issues around the Necton substation have been adequately addressed in the Boreas DCO documentation presented for examination. There has been zero involvement of the local Parish Council who would be expected to have the most knowledge of the topography and issues associated with this project.

Necton Parish Council
5 February 2020