

5th May 2020

My Reference:- 220022632
Norfolk Boreas Project – EN010087

Dear Planning Inspectorate,

I write because of receipt of the email detailing Deadline 10.

When the hearings of 17th & 18th March were “postponed” I took that by definition to mean they would be re-scheduled!

The Vattenfall, Equinor open meeting with the Parish Council scheduled for the 19th March was “cancelled”, which I registered as a lost opportunity for information.

It was on the 19th March my family went into isolation because of coronavirus and I received the email explaining future reserved dates for hearings would not be used. It did not seem conceivable that an examination, which to that point had seemed so rigorous, would continue in the background whilst the majority of the interested parties were unable to give it any significant level of consideration. I know I am not the only person who believed the timetable was in a hold scenario awaiting resolution of the coronavirus situation.

I therefore left the thread of this inspection when, at the Planning Inspectorates suggestion, a multi-party meeting of District, County and Parish Councils met to try and move things forward. That meeting discussed alternative options for the Cawston traffic route, which on differing levels were acceptable to the majority. Some of this I understood had been previously presented by Boreas. I was hopeful for an alternative or compromise.

It was receipt of the deadline 10 email which made me aware the examination is continuing apace. Picking up the paperwork again this week and being referred to the applicants responses to the third round of questions it is very obvious that no Cawston traffic route alternatives will be considered because in the applicants view it would not be proportionate or reasonable to require fresh consideration. It appears the initial plan is to be pushed through with any contentious detail to be shown as “under discussion” or submitted “post consent”.

The Boreas team, with the examination as their primary concern, have diligently submitted on deadlines. The Councillors, both paid and voluntary, who have been focused on their communities because of Covid considerations have made late, short or no submission. From all the work previously put in by those parties is this not an indicator of an in-balance in time/ consideration for the matter in hand.

I therefore like many before me request an extension to the active examination period of Norfolk Boreas. A decision of this magnitude has to be unquestionable; it appears that

Covid opened the door for this project to advance through whilst opposing attention was focused elsewhere.

Initial questions from my very first submission remain, we are still not aware of actual mitigation solutions through Cawston that will ensure safety of pedestrians and will stop our home being hit!

The final question from the Planning Inspectorate in this round is now hugely important

Q4.16.04 Effects on local communities

We are not yet through the Covid 19 Pandemic and can barely guess the long-term impact it may have on people's livelihoods, health and well-being.

The proposed Boreas project had already been detailed as stressful by many. Communities have pulled together during the current crisis but the longer it goes on the more difficult lives become. All current presumed negative effects will be significantly raised.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Polly Brockis