

I live between Sturton by Stow and Stow, I work primarily in Sturton and Saxilby but also do home visits to clients in villages including Stow, Hardwick, Marton and Ingham. I run, walk and cycle on lanes, tracks and public rights of way between my home and, among other destinations, Marton, Stow Park, Gate Burton, Willingham, Fillingham, Ingham, Brattleby, Thorpe le Fallows, Broxholme, Bransby, Torksey and Hardwick. I cycle commute on the days I work in Saxilby, along the B1241.

Whilst the Examining Committee may not be familiar with all of these villages, the point I would like to make is that my house will have a view of panels from the Cottam project, my cycle commute will be affected by the West Burton project and nearly every aspect of my working and recreational life will be impacted by one or more of the Gate Burton, West Burton, Cottam and the latest Stow Park projects.

I have read the Rule 6 letter and your comments in Annex C that you will carry out the Examination for the Proposed Development and have no responsibility for the Examination of the other projects, and note that in Annex D you have included the cumulative impact of all the projects as a consideration in a number of the Principal Issues and in Annex E you are requiring updates from the Applicants on the interrelationships with the other projects. However, it is not just the cumulative impact of the multiple projects on our lives, environment and environs during both the construction and operative phases that is of concern – what is relevant to this Preliminary Meeting is that if the Gate Burton project continues to be examined separately from the other projects, each with their own hearing timetable, those of us who are affected by more than one project, and have registered as Interested Parties for each, are already finding ourselves overburdened with documents, formal notices and timetables etc – and it will only get worse. You yourself say in the Rule 6 letter “Given the volume and frequency of letters the Planning Inspectorate needs to send to Interested Parties during an Examination.....”

Looking at the project webpages (as we are consistently invited to do), there are literally thousands of pages of documents to read – and the approach being put forward with each project examined separately plays into the hands of the developers and prejudices concerned residents. Those of us who work full time cannot physically read all of the relevant paperwork within the various deadlines, let alone process it and comment on it.

Whilst the Examining Committee only has to look at the documents for the project they are tasked with, those of us who live in the area need to be up to date on all of the projects that affect us, and work to their different deadlines. There will be a number of issues that get missed in the process because of this. Has this aspect been considered in the decision to look at each project separately with separate timetables etc? Residents are NOT affected by just one project.

Whilst I realise that the Preliminary Meeting is probably being held in Lincoln, in the middle of a weekday, to make it cheaper and easier for those from ‘out of town’ to attend – proximity to train station, part of their working week etc, I sincerely hope that future meetings to which Interested Parties are invited might be closer to the actual location of the project and at times when those who work full time can attend eg Marton village hall or Willingham village hall, at a weekend. A virtual option does address the location issue but NOT the timing / day of the week