

The plethora of applications that affect the area we live in is alarming and the cumulative impact is very significant for local residents and businesses. Notwithstanding the sheer volume and intricacies of the paperwork attached to each application, it would have made sense for the various applications to have been considered together given their impact on each other and local people.

We understood that was not to be the case, yet we now learn that the Preliminary Hearing for West Burton will commence on 7th September immediately after the Cottam hearings. Gate Burton is slightly ahead but is also relevant. So we have three bunched together, indeed, two examinations running concurrently. Alternatively each examination could have been spaced out so that local people had time to understand and comment upon each application in turn.

It has been a challenge working one's way through some of the documentation on one application, but to have another examination running concurrently is a challenge to residents, the vast majority of whom are laypeople, not specialists in this field. We are, however, people who value the area in which we live (and work) and are concerned about these proposals and their impact on our lives and those of the next generation. We do not feel the process as set out enables us to engage fully in something which will potentially have a major impact on our lives.