

Mrs L Robinson

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15 March 2012

Dear Mrs Robinson

### **Proposed A556 Knutsford to Bowdon Scheme**

Thank you for your correspondence dated 1 March 2012 regarding the above proposal.

This proposal is currently at the pre-application stage of the process, at this stage the IPC is unable to process or respond to comments. This ensures the impartiality of the IPC and protects the interests of all parties involved in the process. However, correspondence received by the IPC during this stage will be retained on file and made available to the Commissioner once the application is submitted.

As you are aware the Highways Agency is currently consulting with local communities and statutory consultees on their proposal in accordance with the duties which the Planning Act 2008 places upon them. At this stage, I would suggest that engaging in this consultation is the most appropriate action. Please note that we received a letter from the Highways Agency dated 29 February 2012 informing us of amendments made to their Consultation Summary Document.

As your letter raises concerns with the consultation being carried out you may also wish to send a copy of your correspondence to the relevant local authority. When an application is submitted to the IPC (following the pre-application stage), we have a 28 day period during which a Commissioner will decide whether to accept the application to progress to the examination stage. During this time we will invite relevant local authorities to provide us with their comments on the adequacy of the promoter's consultation.

If the IPC accepts the application for examination, there will be the opportunity to register views with the IPC and participate in the examination by completing a relevant representation form. Details about how and when to register will be publicised by the developer in local newspapers and on site notices. Please note that you are unable to register as an interested party during the current (pre-application) stage of the process for this proposal.

The decision date for this proposal is unknown at this stage. As stated above, once the developer has completed all stages of the pre-application consultation, they will compile and then submit an application to the IPC. The first decision (on whether or not the application can be accepted for examination) will be made by the 28 day deadline, following submission. If the application is accepted it will enter the pre-examination stage where the opportunity arises to register as an interested party and a preliminary meeting will be held to discuss the process during the examination. The examination of the application will be undertaken within a maximum of 6 months, followed by a maximum of 3 months recommendation period, where a recommendation will be made to the Secretary

of State. The Secretary of State will then have a maximum of 3 months to make the final decision on the application.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at the address or email provided. For your information I have enclosed a flyer regarding the IPC's abolition and transfer of its functions to the National Infrastructure Directorate.

Yours sincerely

**Kathryn Powell**

**Senior Case Manager**

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The IPC gives advice about applying for an order granting development consent or making representations about an application (or a proposed application). The IPC takes care to ensure that the advice we provide is accurate. This communication does not however constitute legal advice upon which you can rely and you should note that IPC lawyers are not covered by the compulsory professional indemnity insurance scheme. You should obtain your own legal advice and professional advice as required.

We are required by law to publish on our website a record of the advice we provide and to record on our website the name of the person or organisation who asked for the advice. We will however protect the privacy of any other personal information which you choose to share with us and we will not hold the information any longer than is necessary.

Before sending information to the IPC, please consider our Openness Policy, which can be viewed on our website or a copy will be provided free of charge on request