



SIMON WRIGHT MP
NORWICH SOUTH CONSTITUENCY

PINS RECEIVED

19 MAY 2014

Mr Mark Southgate
Director of Major Planning
The Planning Inspectorate
The Square
BRISTOL
BS1 6PN

Our Ref: JJH/Cpre001/2/12May14
Date: 12 May 2014

Dear Mr Southgate ,

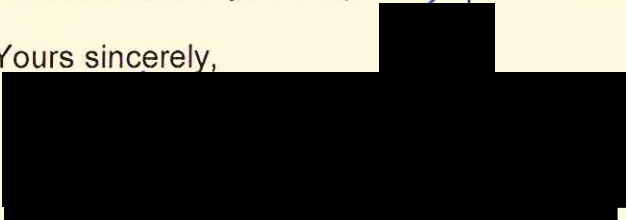
Re: Norwich Northern Distributor Road Planning Application

I am writing to you on behalf of CPRE Norfolk, Stop Norwich Urbanisation (SNUB) and the Norwich Green party who have written a joint letter regarding the Norwich Northern Distributor Road and the manner in which the planning application has been handled by Norfolk County Council.

I have enclosed a copy of their letter as well as several attachments I have been asked to forward on to you. I would be grateful if you could look into the issues raised in the correspondence and respond to the points raised.

I look forward to your response in due course.

Yours sincerely,


Simon Wright MP

Whilst Simon Wright MP will treat as confidential any personal information which you pass on, he will normally allow staff and authorised volunteers to see it if this is needed to help and advise you. The MP may pass on all or some of this information to agencies such as the DWP, Inland Revenue or the local Council if this is necessary to help with your case. Simon Wright MP may wish to write to you from time to time to keep you informed on issues which you may find of interest. Please let him know if you do not wish to be contacted for this purpose.

Please reply to Constituency Office

2 Douro Place, Norwich, Norfolk, NR2 4BG

Email: office@simonwright.org.uk Telephone: 01603 627660

Website: <http://www.simonwright.org.uk> Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/simonwrightmp>

06 MAY 2014



JOINT LETTER FROM SNUB, CPRE Norfolk, Norwich Green Party

23rd April 2014

FOR THE PERSONAL ATTENTION OF
Sir Michael Pitt

Chief Executive
Planning Inspectorate
4/08 Wing
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Dear Sir Michael,

**NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL'S ON-GOING INVESTIGATION INTO FORMAL
COMPLAINTS OVER LOST CONSULTATION RESPONSES**
Re. Norwich Northern Distributor Road – Planning Act 2008
Norfolk County Council's Pre-Application Consultation Report

We recently copied you into a letter (by email on April 7th) from our three campaign organisations to Norfolk County Council acting Chief Executive, Ms Anne Gibson related to the above.

The background is that Norfolk County Council 'lost' the responses of our three organisations to their public consultation last year on making the proposed Norwich Northern Distributor Road an NSIP. The County Council now accepts that the submissions were 'lost' within the Council's "consultation system" having previously made statements to PINS¹, and in the Press, to the contrary. As a result, the acting Chief Executive has now instigated an investigation, currently being carried out by Council officers at a very senior level. We are re-attaching our letter to Ms Anne Gibson, which provides further information, for your information.

Our reason for writing to you is that we have received an email response from the Case Manager, Nicholas Coombes on April 11th. We are very concerned by the following sentence from Mr Coombes letter:

"Having acquired these responses, we consider that the applicant did have regard to the points raised in the missing submissions, as these points were also raised by other consultees."

We do not agree firstly, that the points made in the three missing submissions were raised by other consultees, or secondly that the applicant "did have regard" to them in their application. The same assertion was also made, incorrectly in our view, by PINS in a letter (February 4th, 140204_TR010015_Acceptance reply Boswell.pdf) from Mr Coombes to County Councillor Andrew

¹ Letter (February 4th, 140204_TR010015_Acceptance reply Boswell.pdf) from Mr Coombes to County Councillor Andrew Boswell.

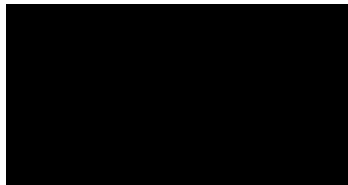
Boswell, and in the Norwich Northern Distributor Road Section 55 Application Checklist (February 4th, TR010015_Norwich Distributor Road_Section_55_Checklist.doc.pdf).

You will be aware that one of us, Norwich Green Party, issued a Pre-Action Protocol letter to PINS on February 3rd, prior to PINS acceptance of the application. Our collective concerns remain that as objector groups we have been prejudiced. We are confident that the loss of our submissions by the applicant has resulted in the prejudice to the consideration of these issues at the acceptance stage. Further our interests have also been prejudiced for being able to participate in the examination of the application later this year: we cannot accept that the examination is fair to all parties given that key material in our pre-application submissions was lost and not considered properly at the pre-acceptance stage.

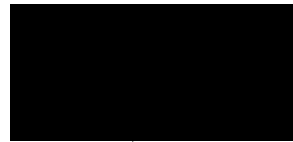
At this stage, we request that the Planning Inspectorate now provide us with a detailed explanation of the sentence highlighted from Mr Coombes' letter of April 7th, and also the previous assertions referred to. In particular, we request that PINS specify which other responses and consultees raised the detailed points made in the missing submissions, and also how Norfolk County Council represented these points.

We look forward to hearing from you with regard to these matters as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Katy Jones, Branch Manager
CPRE Norfolk



Stephen Heard, Chairman,
SNUB



Richard Bearman, Leader, Green
Party group on Norfolk County
Council



06 MAY 2014



Cardinal House
86 St. Benedict's Street
Norwich
NR2 4AB

Telephone: 01603 761660
Email: info@cprenorfolk.org.uk

www.cprenorfolk.org.uk

Working locally and nationally to
protect and enhance a beautiful,
thriving countryside for everyone
to value and enjoy.

**JOINT LETTER
FROM SNUB, CPRE Norfolk, NNTAG and Norwich Green Party**

Ms Anne Gibson
Acting Managing Director
Norfolk County Council

3rd April 2014
By email and post

Dear Ms Gibson,

**ON-GOING INVESTIGATION INTO FORMAL COMPLAINTS
Re. Norwich Northern Distributor Road – Planning Act 2008
Norfolk County Council's Pre-Application Consultation Report**

We would like to thank you for the meeting on 18th March when representatives of our organisations met with you (with NNTAG as an observer group). We also thank you, Tom McCabe, Victoria McNeill and Al Collier for your time, and explanation of the investigation so far.

It is now nearly three clear weeks since our meeting and we thought it would be useful to summarise our understanding of the meeting and our expectations for the outcomes of the investigation. We appreciate the seriousness at NCC with which the issue has been taken and hope we can reach an outcome which is mutually acceptable.

First, this is our overview understanding of Al Collier's investigation as at 18th March. We would appreciate if its accuracy may be confirmed:

1. The Council and the complainants now all agree that the three submissions for SNUB, CPRE and Norwich Green Party were received at the email address norwich.transport@norfolk.gov.uk which is hosted on the NCC computer network and was the official email address for the consultation.
 - a. For the Council, this is contrary to the initial (denial) position as stated in the media when the issue was first raised. For example, a spokesman for Norfolk County Council said in the EDP on February 5th: "We are confident that all consultation responses we have received have been properly logged and included in the consultation report".

President
Professor Tim O'Riordan

Chairman
James Parry

Treasurer
John Davies

Registered charity number 219269

www.cpre.org.uk

2. The process by which consultation responses were processed was outlined by Al Collier. Essentially, email submissions were processed manually via a clerical process in which:
 - a. The message and any attachments were saved to file store (as opposed to email storage). Each message being stored as a .msg file.
 - b. Each message was logged in a spreadsheet and given a reference number, providing an index/inventory of the responses received via the email route.
 - c. The original email message was then deleted from the norwich.transport@norfolk.gov.uk email account to save space on the relevant Exchange Server.
 - d. The email responses were later added to responses coming by different routes (postal mail etc).
 - e. This clerical process was carried out each day so emails coming in out of office hours would usually be processed the next working day. The staff employed to do it were relatively low-level, and comprised a team of 3-4 people.
3. The norwich.transport@norfolk.gov.uk email account was hosted on a Microsoft Exchange Server and access to the email would be subject to usual Microsoft server privileges and credential checking. A number of people would have access to the email account ("quite a few" was stated in the meeting).
4. Microsoft Exchange Servers are limited to a 99 day log/data retention restriction. However, NCC systems are stated to comply with Government's Public Services Network standards which states that logs should be kept for a minimum of 6 months.
 - a. We note that at the meeting the Government's Public Services Network standard was quoted as "up to 6 months".
 - b. However, reference to section 4.3.6.1 *Log Retention, Escalation* of "Common Standard for Protective Monitoring, Security Incident Management and Situation Awareness" document [downloaded from: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/136009/PMSIMS_A-Std-v1-0.pdf] shows the **relevant PSN Code Condition** to be (PRO.3) *Within legal constraints audit logs shall be retained for a minimum of six months*.
 - c. We also note that a Freedom of Information response to Councillor Andrew Boswell on March 27th states with respect to NCC's standards for Security Management "Compliance with the Government's Public Services Network & the Payment Credit-Card Industry PCI standards are followed". This FoI response is attached as an Appendix to this letter.
5. Al Collier stated that the balance of probability was that the three submissions were "not logged" [point 2b above]. However further investigation was required to determine how an response email could be deleted from the norwich.transport@norfolk.gov.uk email account but not logged, and this would continue after March 18th.
6. The investigation to March 18th had drawn attention to shortcomings in the quality of the consultation process, and three interim recommendations for the investigation report would be:
 - a. Standardise training for NCC staff involved in public consultations, and those involved in processing the results.
 - b. Move all NCC consultations to a more up-to-date automated system (or "cloud" based system). It was noted that NCC do already use cloud based consultation systems in other departments but this technology was not used on this consultation.
 - c. Review NCC system log retention policy.
7. In response to a question from Katy Jones of CPRE, NCC confirmed that the investigation was

restricted to the 3 missing consultation responses. The Council does not know whether any other submissions from individuals or organisations were received then subsequently lost in the same manner. NCC stated it does not consider there to be any merit in investigating this possibility further at this stage.

- a. However, we note that by taking this approach, the Council will not know the extent of the problem and so any investigation is therefore limited and possibly flawed.

At this stage, three weeks after our meeting, we wish to state our position:

- A. The original questions from our initial complaint letters remain and we attach these in an appendix for reference.
- B. The interim progress that we were given at the meeting provides no explanation of how our consultation responses "were not logged" (this is entirely reasonable given that it was *interim* progress). However, we wish to make it clear that we do expect a full explanation in the final report, and an inconclusive outcome that suggests a number of possible explanations will not be accepted.
 - i. In particular, the possible explanation of intervention by one or more 3rd parties outside of the (3/4 people) clerical team daily processing the results must be eliminated beyond doubt.
- C. We are concerned that NCC states (Appendix A) that it is compliant with the Government's Public Services Network standards for IT security which states 6 month log retention but that the impression at the meeting was that log files were not kept beyond 99 days.
 - i. The issue of the in-built software restriction on Microsoft Exchanges servers is in fact a "red herring" in this matter. The standard practice of any medium scale IT installation (such as NCC) would be to back up such vital data onto an independent storage system (typically a Storage Area Network (SAN) solution). This would be part of standard disaster recovery policy for the event of critical crash of the MS Exchange server, apart from any other requirements. On such a system, backup files could then be kept, in theory, indefinitely and the 6 month minimum standard is *extremely unchallenging technically* to achieve.
- D. This raises further issues and questions:
 - i. Is NCC following the Government's Public Services Network standard or not? If it is, as the Fol response from the IT department states, then
 - ii. The lost submissions were sent to NCC as follows: Norwich Green Party (20 September), CPRE Norfolk (19 September) and SNUB (12 September). 6 months from these dates is March 12th-20th. Our complaints were started in early February and were complete by 24th February and Al Collier interviewed us on March 6th. Local MP Simon Wright wrote to the Acting Chief Executive on February 5th about the matter.

However, previous to this we had been in email dialogue with NCC officers since January 21st about the missing consultation responses.

Assuming that the minimum of 6 months log file retention was implemented in NCC IT systems to comply with the Government's Public Services Network standard, then there was then at the very minimum a period of a week [March 6th – March 12th] from when the investigation was clearly underway in which the logfiles could have been recovered if the Government's Public Services Network standard was being properly followed. If the Council had responded to initial questions around January 21st with a thorough investigation, then there would have been a

period of over 6 weeks for logfiles to be recovered to ensure a proper investigation was possible.

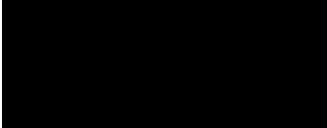
- iii. From around January 21st when it was clear that objectors were concerned about missing consultation responses, and a thorough investigation might be necessary, it would have been prudent to instruct the IT department not to delete any further log files from NCC SAN type storage until the investigation was complete (in other words, if log files were being deleted after 6 months in compliance with the Government's Public Services Network standard, then this should have been overridden for the duration of the investigation. Please can you advise us if any such instruction was given to the IT department at any time?

We thank you again for the March 18th meeting and restate our hope that the current investigation will reach a mutually acceptable conclusion. Please can you give us a ball park date for the final investigation report? If it is not before Easter (17th April), then we request another meeting to discuss the on-going investigation in the week of April 22nd.

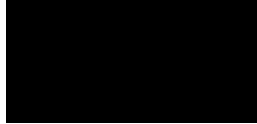
We also request that you can confirm the points 1 to 7 above as a true recording of the March 18th meeting, and also respond on points Di and Diii above as soon as possible.

We look forward to hearing from you with regard to these matters as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely



Katy Jones, Branch Manager,
CPRE Norfolk



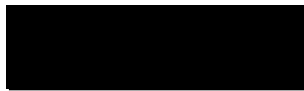
Stephen Heard, Chairman, SNUB



Richard Bearman, Leader, Green Party
group on Norfolk County Council



Green Party



Denise Carlo
Coordinator, NDR Campaign
(observer)



Cc: Mr Mark Southgate, Director of Major Applications and Plan, the Planning Inspectorate
Mr Nicholas Coombes, Caseworker, the Planning Inspectorate

APPENDIX A:

Information Management <information.management@norfolk.gov.uk> 27 March 2014 13:20

To: andrewpboswell@googlemail.com

Dear Councillor Boswell

I refer to your request for information dated 13 March 2014. In accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I have now processed your request.

You Asked

What standards are used for

- a) IT Management
- b) IT Audit
- c) Security Management

Our Response

The Standards used are as follows:

- a) ITIL, Remedy
- b) UK Public Sector internal audit standards
- c) Compliance with the Government's Public Services Network & the Payment Credit-Card Industry PCI standards are followed

You Asked

Also are there guidelines from central government (DCLG or similar) which set standards for local government IT installations

Our Response

Public Services Network, ICT Procurement Frameworks, Manufacture training and accreditation, Environmental and Health & Safety best practice

You Asked

How NCC conform/comply and set out to deliver such quality standards - please also send me a copy of these.

Our Response

PSN standards that Norfolk County Council must conform to are available from the Cabinet Office, PCI standards are available from the Payment Card Industry official web site.

Manufacturer installation guides, Health & Safety training and procurement training documents are available at OGC website, HSE website and Dell Computers web site.

If you are dissatisfied with our handling of your request you have the right of appeal through the Council's internal complaints procedure by setting out the grounds of your appeal in writing to:

The Compliments and Complaints Manager

FREEPOST 1H 2076

Norwich NR1 2BR

E-mail: complimentsandcomplaints@norfolk.gov.uk

An appeal should be submitted within 40 working days of the date of this notice and should be identified as "FOI Appeal".

If you are dissatisfied after pursuing the complaints procedure, you may apply to the Information Commissioner under Section 50 of the Act for a decision whether your request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of Part I of the Act. Contact details as follows:-

First Contact Team
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane, Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF
E-mail: casework@ico.gsi.gov.uk
<http://www.ico.gov.uk/>

Kind Regards

Tricia Guin

Information Compliance Officer
Information Management Service
County Hall
Martineau Lane
Norwich
NR1 2SQ

Tel No: [01603 222661](tel:01603222661)

tricia.guin@norfolk.gov.uk

Norfolk County Council

General enquiries: [0344 800 8020](tel:03448008020) or information@norfolk.gov.uk

www.norfolk.gov.uk

APPENDIX B: Questions raised in initial complaints

A 1. How does the County Council explain the auto-acknowledgements received by the three groups in response to their emailed submissions and at the same time its claim to not having any record of the comments? The lost explanation is untenable, and we expect a proper explanation to be provided.

B 1. How do you explain that the Counsel directly addressed the legal points that were raised ONLY in the three responses which Norfolk County Council has not recorded in any form to the Planning Inspectorate, and claims never to have received (despite auto acknowledgement messages to the authors)?

B 2. Why does the Consultation Report Appendix S fail to mention objectors' concerns about the legality of the consultation process?

B 3. Why did the Report to Norfolk County Council Cabinet on 4 November (Item 14 Appendix B) not refer and give consideration to the consultation legality and process concerns raised, and the legal advice obtained?

B 4. Please can the County Council provide us with a copy of the brief in any form (eg written brief, notes of verbal communications etc) to Counsel and its date and time (this has been previously requested by Cllr Andrew Boswell to David Allfrey on January 16 Jan 2014).

C 1. Why were the numbers of responses for/against not reported to elected members?

C 2. Can you point to where Norfolk County Council elected members considered the consultation findings in relation to the overall outcome as opposed to matters relating to design points?

06 MAY 2014

Councillor Richard Bearman,
Leader, Green Party group on Norfolk County Council,
17, Constable Road,
Norwich,
NR4 6RW.

24th February 2014

Ms Anne Gibson
Acting Managing Director
Norfolk County Council

Dear Ms Gibson,

NORWICH GREEN PARTY – FORMAL COMPLAINT

**Re. Norwich Northern Distributor Road – Planning Act 2008
Norfolk County Council's Pre-Application Consultation Report**

Norwich Green Party ('we') are writing to make a formal complaint against Norfolk County Council over its handling of community responses to the NDR consultation held between 8 July and 20 September last year. We also request that we meet with you urgently to discuss this formal complaint.

Under the Planning Act 2008, public consultation on infrastructure projects is front-loaded at the pre-application stage and the Applicant has a duty to consider responses received. Norfolk County Council lost three substantive responses from significant community groups, including that submitted by the Norwich Green Party and failed to fully consider the overall consultation findings. We would be grateful if you could investigate these matters as matter of urgency. Once again, there are serious concerns raised about how NCC handles public consultations, and potential democratic deficit and other irregularities.

A. 'Missing' Consultation Responses from Norwich Green Party, CPRE Norfolk and SNUB

Examination of the community consultation responses in files held by Norfolk County Council failed to locate the substantial submissions which were emailed separately on different days by Norwich Green Party (20 September, 13 page attachment), CPRE Norfolk (on 19 September) and SNUB (on 12 September, 22 page attachment). Norfolk County Council officers claim not to have any record of them, even though the three groups concerned received the following auto-response at the time of emailing their comments:

"Thank you for contacting us at Norfolk County Council, Transport For Norwich. If you are providing comments and feedback as part of the current consultation on the Norwich Northern Distributor Route, these are appreciated and will be reviewed, together with all other comments received, at the end of the consultation period".

In relation to the Norwich Green Party response, the County Council cited reference number LO75. However, this was not the 13 page objection emailed to the County Council on 20 September, but a two page note given by Councillor Adrian Dearnley on behalf of

the Green Party to the Planning and Highways Delegation Committee on 14 October 2014.

The missing responses were made by bodies with large memberships. Each one ran to many pages containing detailed arguments that had taken many hours to prepare. The lost Green Party response is particularly serious as the local Green Party has nineteen councillors in five wards in central Norwich. Collectively, they represent a large public vote against the NDR.

Question:

A 1. How does the County Council explain the auto-acknowledgements received by the three groups in response to their emailed submissions and at the same time its claim to not having any record of the comments? The lost explanation is untenable, and we expect a proper explanation to be provided.

B. Relationship of the lost consultation submissions to the legal opinion provided to Planning Inspectorate

The three 'lost' consultation responses all enumerated very serious concerns about the legitimacy and legality of the consultation in view of the implementation of an amendment to the Planning Act 2008 on 25 July which altered the threshold for road and rail projects as 'nationally significant infrastructure projects'. The three groups complained that the public had been unreasonably asked to respond to a consultation on a scheme whose legal basis and rationale had changed halfway through the consultation period. However, Norwich Green Party set out the legal issues with the consultation in much greater length and detail than the other responses. No other consultation response had raised the same point.

We now see from Norfolk County Council's Consultation Report and Appendices published on 15 January 2014 that the County Council instructed Counsel to prepare a Legal Opinion. The advice dated 3 October summarises the issue to be addressed:

para 1 "I am asked to advise Norfolk County Council (NCC) on a procedural issue concerning the validity of the pre-application consultation in relation to the Norwich Northern Distributor Road" (NDR). (Legal Opinion Summary)

The advice continues:

"On 2 October 2013, NCC received (by email) a request from PINS for a copy of any legal opinion NCC may have sought, either before or after the Direction "about the validity of the pre-application consultation, in the light of the SoS Direction". The context for the request was not fully explained but the email did refer to PINS having received correspondence from potential objectors which "raise legal points concerning the validity of the pre application consultation in view of the SoS's Direction". (para 12).

"NCC has requested sight of this correspondence, so as to understand the nature of the "legal points" that have been raised, but for reasons that are unclear PINS has declined to provide that information at this stage. (para 13)

*"NCC has sought this Advice in order to respond to PINS but necessarily the Advice has to speculate on the nature of the "legal points" that are apparently of concern."
(para 14)*

"Based on the terms of the PINS email the concern appears to be that the Direction makes no express provision in relation to the pre-application consultation that was carried out by NCC prior to 9 August 2013. It might be surmised that the concern that arises from this is whether pre-application activities carried out when the NDR was a NSIP (ie between 21 June 2013 and 24 July 2013) and/or pre-application consultation activities carried out when the NDR ceased to be a NSIP and not yet been directed to be a project of national significance (ie between 25 July 2013 and 8 August 2013) can be regarded as valid or can continue to be relied on now that the NDR is subject to the Direction." (para 15)

The 'correspondence from potential objectors' referred to in paragraph 12 above relates to a joint letter from CPRE Norfolk, NNTAG and SNUB dated 26 September to PINS expressing various concerns over the consultation process, one of which related to the legal point noted above which had been raised by CPRE Norfolk, SNUB and the Norwich Green Party in their submissions. However, PINS did not publish this letter until 10 October.

Even though Counsel had to guess the issue to be addressed (which could have been one of several), by apparent coincidence, the advice focused on the exact point which had been raised by the Norwich Green Party, CPRE Norfolk and SNUB in their 'missing' consultation responses. As indicated, no other consultation responses received by Norfolk County Council had made this particular legal point, and only the Norwich Green Party response analysed the situation at the same level of detail as the Counsel's opinion.

Whilst Appendix S to the Consultation Report did not log any concerns raised by these S47 and S48 parties regarding the consultation process and legal validity, the main report discussed 'Compliance with Legislative Requirements' at Section 2.7.

Section 2.7.2 states:

".....The Planning Inspectorate has requested that the applicant explain how the pre-application consultation complies with the Planning Act 2008 requirements and specifically the relevance of the Direction and any impact on the lawfulness of the pre-application consultation carried out".

The statement in the Consultation Report that the Planning Inspectorate had sought an explanation does not quite tally with the Legal Opinion which states (at paragraph 12) that PINS had requested a copy of any legal advice and the context for the request was correspondence from potential objectors.

Questions:

B 1. How do you explain that the Counsel directly addressed the legal points that were raised ONLY in the three responses which Norfolk County Council has not recorded in any form to the Planning Inspectorate, and claims never to have received (despite auto acknowledgement messages to the authors)?

B 2. Why does the Consultation Report Appendix S fail to mention objectors' concerns about the legality of the consultation process?

B 3. Why did the Report to Norfolk County Council Cabinet on 4 November (Item 14 Appendix B) not refer and give consideration to the consultation legality and process concerns raised, and the legal advice obtained?

B 4. Please can the County Council provide us with a copy of the brief in any form (eg written brief, notes of verbal communications etc) to Counsel and its date and time (this has been previously requested by Cllr Andrew Boswell to David Allfrey on January 16 Jan 2014).

C. Norfolk County Council's Lack of Consideration of the Consultation Results

The community group, the Norwich and Norfolk Transport Action Group (NNTAG) asked Emeritus Professor John Greenaway to read through and analyse the 1,492 S47 and S48 consultation responses. Professor Greenaway produced a note of his assessment (attached). He concluded that the amount of opposition to the adopted scheme was overwhelming but that this finding was downplayed and indeed concealed in the way that the results were presented in the Consultation Report.

Looking at the Norfolk County Council Cabinet Report of 4 November 2013 with regard to last summer's NDR consultation, it seems to us that the report did not present a fair overall picture of the results to elected members. The report focused on detailed design matters raised whilst omitting any figures on the tally of responses in favour or opposed to the NDR. We have not seen any other County Council reports informing elected members of the consultation results.

This lack of a proper understanding of the public's views on the NDR may have led the County Council Cabinet Member for Transport to wrongly claim in a response to a formal Cabinet question from an elected member on 27 January 2014 that

"the majority of people support the NDR".

Under the Planning Act 2008, the Applicant has a duty to consider responses received. In our view Norfolk County Council failed to consider the fact that the community consultation responses overwhelmingly opposed the NDR adopted scheme.

Questions

C 1. Why were the numbers of responses for/against not reported to elected members?

C 2. Can you point to where Norfolk County Council elected members considered the consultation findings in relation to the overall outcome as opposed to matters relating to design points?

We also request that we meet with you urgently to discuss this formal complaint.

We look forward to hearing from you with regard to these matters as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Richard Bearman,
Leader, Green Party group on Norfolk County Council

CC
Mr Mark Southgate, Director of Major Applications and Plan, the Planning Inspectorate
Mr Nicholas Coombes, Caseworker, the Planning Inspectorate