

Mr.L.A. & Mrs.M.J.Gray



Mr Mark Wilson – Infrastructure Planning Lead
The Planning Inspectorate
3/18 Eagle Wing
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol BS1 6PN

Via Post and email to:
mark.wilson@infrastructure.gsi.gov.uk

14 November 2013

Our Ref : Planning Inspectorate NDR 01.doc

Your Ref :

Dear Mr Wilson,

Re : Proposed Application for Development Consent by Norfolk County Council (NCC) - Norwich Northern Distributor Road (NDR) – Drayton Junction

We are a community of parishioners on the edge of our village (Drayton) who will be considerably effected by the proposed route to / from the NDR. There are also serious implications for the safety of all road users with the current route which needs addressing.

We write to you following our representations and recent negotiations with the applicant (NCC), as we do not believe the impact on our community, or the safety of road users, or appropriate mitigating measures have been suitably addressed ahead of their submission, which we understand is imminent.

Despite raising the issues with applicant in February 2013 (following a change to their initial design), the vital issues have been ignored until more recently and whilst discussions are ongoing, we are being told they are under immense pressure to submit the application and it is too late in the day to conclude our (strong) objections and amend their design.

We are aware of the Project Documents, S51 Advice, communications etc posted on the Planning Inspectorate website and the Department for Communities and Local Government publication "Guidance on the pre-application process" (January 2013) under the Planning Act 2008.

Specifically, in the Guidance, paragraphs 11 (page 5) and 36 (page 13) are particularly relevant however, in the main, they have been ignored by NCC in our case (as have their own Highways Plan 2013 – 14 with similar priorities).

Despite NCC previously recognising and accepting the dangers of their proposed route (including sharp bends and accidents) and the fact they have a perfectly safe alternative road readily available (which they propose to close off), they are ignoring our critical input and trying to railroad through their current design, which is ludicrous. They are using modelling "assumptions" as their only argument for reducing traffic flows via an unsuitable route (which we do not accept), whereas we are using factual evidence of dangers to road users, with safe alternative measures of reducing traffic flows giving similar results.

We have met with our Parish Council and County Councillor, both whom accept our reasons why the current proposal would be unsuitable and why it could create danger to road users. The local police have confirmed they are totally unaware of the proposal to close off such a safe road and agree with our concerns.

We do not believe these specific issues have been adequately addressed, or received adequate consultation, by the applicant which also leaves us in considerable doubt over other areas of their proposals for the NDR. Consequently we believe the Secretary of State (or Planning Inspectorate on their behalf) should refuse to accept the application until these issues have been properly and safely addressed, or at least ensure they are satisfactorily dealt with, at the correct stage.

Tel :

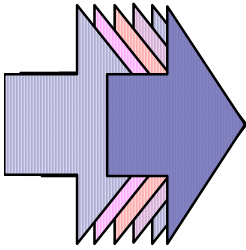


Fax :



E-mail :





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In accordance with paragraph 69 on page 20 of the above mentioned guidance, if necessary, we will also submit our written representations for the inspectorate to consider during the examination. However, in the meantime, please accept this letter as our formal complaint as set out in Paragraph 68.

We would very much welcome a site visit by the inspector, at the appropriate time and if necessary, so they can see the situation first hand and would be grateful if you can advise on our best course of further action please.

Yours sincerely,

Mr L A Gray - on behalf of the parishioners below.

cc



Various other parishioners along Hall Lane Drayton

Tel : [redacted]

Fax [redacted]

E-mail : [redacted]