



SIMON WRIGHT MP
NORWICH SOUTH CONSTITUENCY

Sir Michael Pitt
Chief Executive
Planning Inspectorate for England and Wales
Temple Quay House
2 The Square, Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

11 FEB 2014

Our Ref: MGH/Cpre001/2/05Feb14
Date: 5 February 2014

Dear

Norwich Northern Distributor Route Consultation (NDR)

I am writing to you after recently being contacted by CPRE Norfolk, the Norwich Green Party and Stop Norwich Urbanisation about submissions they made to last year's public consultation on the NDR.

Enclosed is a copy of their recent letter in this respect for your information. I was very concerned to hear that submissions for these three groups as part of this consultation exercise were missing from the County Council's consultation files, particularly as each of the groups concerned received auto-acknowledgements of their receipt.

I am aware that the Planning Inspectorate has now announced that the application for the proposed road has been accepted by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for examination.

However I would appreciate it if you could investigate these concerns and their potential impact for the progress of this application.

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

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

4th February 2014

To all Norfolk MPs

The Northern Distributor Route: serious flaws in the consultation process

CPRE Norfolk is seeking your urgent intervention in an issue of serious democratic concern which affects all Norfolk constituents.

As you will know, Norfolk County Council carried out a public consultation exercise last year on the proposed Northern Distributor Road (NDR). CPRE Norfolk, the Norwich Green Party and Stop Norwich Urbanisation (SNUB) all submitted detailed responses to the consultation, objecting to the NDR and raising important concerns about the legal validity of the consultation process. **These three important submissions are missing from the County's consultation files.** Norfolk County Council claims not to have received them, even though the three groups concerned received auto-acknowledgements at the time of sending.

We are astonished and dismayed that Norfolk County Council could be so negligent in losing these submissions. We cannot say whether it was due to a simple error or deliberate suppression of opposition views, but in either case it is completely unacceptable. Together our organisations represent over 40,000 people and our submissions should have been given appropriate consideration in the consultation process. This has not been allowed to happen.

This is not an issue about the rights or wrongs of the NDR. This is an issue about democratic accountability and whether there has been an abuse of process by Norfolk County Council.

The Planning Inspectorate is expected to make a decision **today** on whether to accept the Development Consent Order for the NDR. We urgently request that, as a parliamentary representative for a Norfolk constituency, you intervene in this process to help ensure that the DCO is refused, on the grounds that there has not been a full and fair public consultation, as required under section 49 of the Planning Act 2008.

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President
Professor Tim O'Riordan

Chairman
James Parry

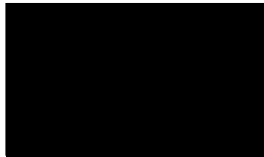
Treasurer
John Davies

Registered charity number 210706

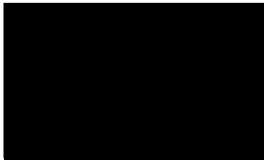
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On a broader point, this worrying situation raises serious questions over the democratic processes and governance of Norfolk County Council. This has to be a source of major concern to all of us living and working in the county and can only fuel existing public cynicism with local politics and the processes of decision-making.

Yours sincerely



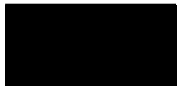
James Parry, Chairman, CPRE Norfolk



Councillor Andrew Boswell, Leader of the Green Party Norwich City Councillors



Councillor Richard Bearman, Leader of the Green Party Norfolk County Councillors



Stephen Heard. Chairman, SNUB

Cc: All Norfolk County Councillors, All Leaders of the District Councils, Local Media, The Planning Inspectorate, Margaret Hodge, Chair of the Public Accounts Committee