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Denise Carlo
Coordinator NDR Campaign Group
Norwich and Norfolk Transport Action
Group
213 College Road
Norwich
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Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR010015

Date: 20 December 2013

Dear Ms Carlo

Proposed Application for Development Consent by Norfolk County Council (NCC) – Norwich Northern Distributor Road (NDR)

Thank you for your emails and for speaking with me on the phone recently, regarding pre-application consultation about the NDR.

I understand your request for a meeting to discuss how members of the public can take part in the examination process. Unfortunately we are not in this instance able to resource a meeting at short notice before the application is expected to be submitted.

The Planning Inspectorate will organise an outreach session in Norwich if the application is accepted for examination. This will allow us to explain how the National Infrastructure consenting process works, and how members of the public can participate. My team and I will be happy to talk with any groups or individuals, but the merits of the scheme will not be discussed outside of any formal examination.

When an application for development consent is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate a decision is made within 28 days as to whether or not the application can be accepted for examination. This decision will be taken in accordance with section 55 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009. This acceptance decision will take into account the application documents and any adequacy of consultation representation received from local authorities.

Once an application is received, the Planning Inspectorate will invite the relevant local authorities to submit an adequacy of consultation representation. The Inspectorate will ask about the applicant's compliance with section 42, section 47 and section 48 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended). These cover the applicant's consultation with statutory bodies, the local community and publicity of the proposal. Prior to the submission of the application, any opinions on the adequacy of consultation should be directed to the relevant local authorities, who can consider these when preparing their response.

In addition, any comments about the adequacy of the applicant's consultation which are submitted to the Planning Inspectorate before the application is submitted will be kept on file and made available to the decision maker at the acceptance stage.

I also strongly advise you to also forward your comments on the consultation directly to the applicant prior to submission of their application.

It is worth noting that the merits of an application are not considered during the acceptance stage. If accepted, there will be an opportunity to register as an interested party and take part in the examination of the application where interested parties can put their views to the Examining Authority, who will be able to review this evidence.

I hope that this information is useful to you. Further guidance is available on the National Infrastructure pages of the planning portal at <http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/>

Yours sincerely

Nicholas Coombes

Nicholas Coombes
Case Manager
0303 444 5518

Advice may be given about applying for an order granting development consent or making representations about an application (or a proposed application). This communication does not however constitute legal advice upon which you can rely and you should obtain your own legal advice and professional advice as required.

A record of the advice which is provided will be recorded on the Planning Inspectorate website together with the name of the person or organisation who asked for the advice. The privacy of any other personal information will be protected in accordance with our Information Charter which you should view before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.