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Stephen Heard
Stop Norwich Urbanisation Campaign

Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR0100015

Date: 27 February 2014

Dear Mr Heard,

Norwich Northern Distributor Road (NDR)

Planning Act 2008 as amended ('PA2008')

Thank you for attending the Planning Inspectorate's drop-in event to explain the process we will use to examine the Norwich Northern Distributor Road application. I hope that you found the presentation informative.

You asked a few detailed questions after the presentation, which I will endeavour to answer here.

The Secretary of State must decide whether an application is to be examined by a panel or a single appointed person, in both cases known as the Examining Authority. This power, conferred by s61(2) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008), is undertaken by the Planning Inspectorate, for and on behalf of the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. Appointment letters are issued in accordance with Rule 4 of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010.

The Secretary of State has issued criteria for appointing the Examining Authority in paragraphs 12-14 of the *Guidance for the examination of applications for development consent* note. The guidance is published and can be accessed by following this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-act-2008-examination-of-applications-for-development-consent>

You also asked about how members of the public with special requirements could take part in the examination. The Planning Inspectorate is careful to ensure that venues for hearings are suitable for the broadest range of participants. For National Infrastructure examinations we follow the same guidance as for Planning Appeals and Inquiries, albeit with typically different room layouts. The Planning Inspectorate guidance is published and can be accessed by following this link:

http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/pins/venue_and_facilities_for_public_inquiries_and_hearings.pdf

The Examining Authority has considerable scope in their control of the examination under s87(1) PA2008 so they are able to adapt the processes of the examination to meet the needs of participants. The Planning Inspectorate is subject to the Equality Act 2010, the requirements of which have been incorporated into best practice advice for inspectors and the Inspectors' Code of Conduct.

Pertinent excerpts from the Code of Conduct are:

Inspectors should treat each person with dignity and respect.

- Inspectors should behave at all times with courtesy, patience and understanding, whilst at the same time ensuring that cases are conducted efficiently and effectively.

Inspectors should not discriminate against people because of their race, sex, sexuality, marital status, religion, disability or age.

- Inspectors should treat everyone the same and consider evidence on its merits regardless of whose evidence it is.

I hope that this covers the areas which we did not fully address on Monday.

Yours sincerely

Nicholas Coombes

Nicholas Coombes
Case Manager

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.