

A1 Birtley to Coal House Improvement Scheme

Agenda for Open Floor Hearing 1

Hearing Date:	Monday 22 June 2020
Time:	2.30pm (Arrangements Conference at 2.00pm)
Venue:	Virtual Hearing via Microsoft Teams

Introduction

Details on participation, conduct and management of the hearing are included in **Annex A** of this agenda and should be read by all participants in advance of the hearing.

Based on the notifications received to speak at an Open Floor Hearing (OFH) all those wishing to speak can be accommodated in OFH 1. Therefore, OFH 2 (which had been scheduled to take place at 7.00pm on 22 June 2020) will no longer be required unless there are any issues with the participation of speakers at OFH1. This is also applicable to the reserve OFHs on 30 June 2020 which will not be required unless there are any issues with participation at OFH1 or 2.

All participants of this virtual hearing are requested to read the [Virtual Hearings Arrangements letter dated 11 June 2020](#).

Attendees

Interested Parties as listed below, who have provided notification of their wish to speak at an Open Floor Hearing, along with any observers.

Agenda

- 1. Welcome, introductions and arrangements for this Open Floor Hearing**
- 2. Representations by Interested Parties requesting to be heard**

The ExA will identify those Interested Parties (IPs) in attendance who have already made a written request to be heard. Subject to their attendance, IPs who have made a written request to be heard will be invited to put oral submissions to the ExA in the following order.

- Gateshead Green Party
- Gateshead Council
- Environment Agency

If any of the above parties no longer wishes to speak then please notify the Planning Inspectorate's case team.

A maximum speaking time guide of **seven minutes per IP** will be applied to submissions by individual IPs.

The ExA may ask questions of any IPs about matters arising from written and oral submissions. If they do so during a timed oral submission, the time taken by the ExA will not count against the maximum speaking time guide.

If requested, the Applicants will be allowed a brief summary response once all submissions have been made by the Interested Parties listed above. A maximum speaking time guide of five minutes will be applied to the Applicant's submissions.

3. Review of any issues and actions arising

The ExA will address how any actions arising from the hearing are to be dealt with.

4. Close of the hearing

Annex A

Conduct and Management of the Hearing

General Arrangements

The ExA will start the Hearing by making introductory comments, introductions and running through housekeeping matters and how the Hearing will be conducted. The ExA's expectation is that the Hearing will typically last for 20-60 minutes. However, the actual duration will depend on the number of speakers wishing to make oral submissions.

Open Floor Hearings

These Hearings do not have a subject matter controlled Agenda and participants may bring up any matter arising from the application that is also important and relevant to a decision taken under the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (PA2008).

You are advised not to repeat in your oral submissions material that has already been included in your Relevant or Written Representations. These have been read by the ExA. Any new evidence that you present in your oral representation should be included in post-hearing submissions (including written submissions of oral cases) at Deadline 9 (8 July 2020).

The Applicant may be asked by or through the ExA to address questions raised by any IPs and will be provided with an opportunity to respond to IPs oral and written cases.

Participants may be legally represented if they wish, but the Hearings will be conducted to ensure that legal representation is not required. The Applicant and IPs may attend with expert advisers, but IPs may participate without expert advice. The ExA may impose a time limit on speakers. This will be dependent on the numbers of IPs who wish to speak.

Any questioning at the Hearing will be led by the ExA. Cross-questioning of the person giving evidence by another person will only be permitted if the ExA decides it is necessary to ensure representations are adequately tested or that a person has had a fair chance to put their case. IPs should note that it is not normal procedure at an OFH for an ExA to permit the cross-questioning of an unrepresented IP by the Applicant or the Applicant's representatives.

The OFH will run until all IPs have made their oral representations and responded to the ExA's exploration of the matters arising from them, and for the Applicant to have been given an opportunity to respond. If, after ten minutes no IPs who have previously notified of their wish to speak have joined the hearing, the ExA is entitled to conclude that none wish to make any oral address, and the ExA may then close the hearing with immediate effect.