

13 June 2023

**Planning Inspectorate**

**Higham Parish Council ("HPC")**

**Summary of Oral Comments Made**

**Preliminary Meeting held at The Forge, London Stadium, Stratford E20 on Tuesday 6 June 2023**

While HPC believe that Annex B of the 'Rule 6 Letter' sets out the matters to be considered, HPC think that there are a number of matters which only relate to the construction and pre-opening period and other matters which only relate to the operation of the development (i.e. post opening). HPC therefore believe that it might be more convenient if the consideration of the draft DCO (dDCO) was in two parts relating to the relatively short pre-opening period and then the long-term operational phase when obligations will need to be in perpetuity.

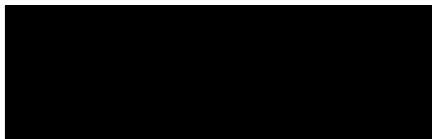
HPC believe that details of construction should be agreed at this stage and form part of the DCO and not subject to Control Documents which effectively state that these matters will be agreed by the relevant parties (including the appointed contractor) at a later date. We believe that the DCO should set out not just what is to be built but how it is to be built.

As part of HPC comments on the application HPC have referred to the poor links between the channel ports/tunnel and the proposed Lower Thames Crossing and would ask that the ExA travels from the M25 down the M20 to Dover and returns via the A2/M2 route to Gravesend. to compare the capacity of the two.

Within Higham, HPC have a particular issue at the staggered crossroads junction of Forge Lane and Crutches Lane with the A226, Gravesend Road. We would ask that either the ExA spends about an hour here from 08:00 in the morning when children are being dropped off at school and crossing the A226, or, preferably, allow an accompanied visit at another time in the day when the Parish Council can explain the problems currently experienced at this junction.

HPC concur with the comments made by others that the timetable seems somewhat compressed and that the normal extensions during the holiday period have been omitted from the published draft, which will cause a number of parties, including ourselves as a lay body without the funds for professional advisers, significant inconvenience. As a result, we may not be able to respond within the set deadlines

Yours sincerely



**Linda Atkinson**  
**Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer**  
**Higham Parish Council**