

Information sharing concerns 20 June 2024 09:24:49 image001.jpg

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Dear Gatwick Team,

I write to you on behalf of Mole Valley District Council and wish to express concerns and frustration at events which have occurred at ISH8 on both 18th and 19th June. The Council would be grateful if you would raise these points with the Inspectors on the ExA panel. The Council is alarmed by the following issues:

- Incorrect parking data with no forewarning despite the Applicant having detected it (ISH8 18.6.24)
- 2. Announcement of new noise data with no forewarning, which was fundamental to the wider examination and agenda item (ISH8 19.6.24)

The Council considers that these points are a matter of process and information sharing which, as they have not been carried out openly, impacts negatively on the Interested Parties' ability to fully engage in the hearing process and the examination more generally.

In both cases, this is new information and/or a significant update in position that will have been available to the Applicant prior to the sessions and they will have been aware of the published agenda. This is particularly the case for noise, which the Applicant will have had to consider in detail in order to carry out the assessments alluded to at ISH8 and which are forthcoming. Such assessments cannot have been achieved overnight and the Applicant confirmed that it was responding to submissions at D4. As such, this should have been part of an open dialogue ahead of the hearing sessions and, at the very least, should have been made known to the ExA so that it could reflect on this in preparing its agendas and considering information submitted at relevant deadlines. Even if the full reports/information were not yet available, knowledge of what would be forthcoming was and is relevant.

Furthermore, key stakeholders, namely the Joint Local Authorities, should have been made aware of the new information/position for both transparency and for the benefit of the hearing sessions. Instead the Applicant's action prevented proper and open discussion. As raised at ISH8, the Council considers the Applicant's approach to withholding such information is unacceptable as it further compounds the lack of proper stakeholder engagement which has been a constant feature, particularly on the matter of noise.

The ExA will be aware that this is not the first instance where the Applicant has been less than forthcoming in the hearing sessions and I draw the ExA's attention to both:

- ISH7 when the ExA was required to raise its own concerns with the Applicant when GAL failed to provide sufficient personnel to respond to published agenda item 3 on the Future Baseline, and;
- 2. The Applicant's withholding of its additional proposed change 4 regarding the introduction of an on-site waste water treatment works from the hearing sessions (ISH7) where waste water was discussed and must have been known about.

The ExA has needed to raise both of these matters with the Applicant yet the Applicants actions at ISH8 demonstrates a continued disregard for the process and tight timescales which all are operating within.

It is known to the Applicant that Mole Valley and other Interested Parties are having to fund its own specialist input for the examination process and the Applicant's lack of openness impacts upon resourcing and confidence in the Applicant's case. The Council fully accepts and respects that this is the ExA's examination, but the Council feels it is necessary to raise this pattern of disrespectful behaviour by the Applicant with the ExA in the hope that something may be done to prevent GAL from repeating these actions and disrupting the progress of the examination. Many thanks and best wishes Marie Killip Principal Planning Policy Officer Mole Valley District Council E: ______@molevalley.gov.uk T: ______

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