

4 July 2011

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Councillor Ros Jones

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Our ref. TR040001

Dear Cllr Jones,

Planning Act 2008

Proposed North Doncaster Rail Chord - Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd. application for an Order Granting Development Consent

Thank you for your letter received on 30 June 2011 regarding the above application. I also refer to our telephone conversation on 1 July 2011.

Since we spoke, I have written to Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council and Network Rail, forwarding a copy of your letter and informing them that approximately 440 further letters, in the same terms, have been received by us from residents of the Askern Spa Ward.

Prior to submitting the application to the IPC, the Planning Act 2008 requires developers to consult the local community, and others, about their proposals for development. Before this consultation of the local community can take place, the developer must draw up a draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) describing how they intend to consult the local community, and send this to the relevant local authority for comment. The developer must have regard to any comments received from the local authority and then carry out the consultation with the local community in accordance with the proposals set out in the SoCC.

The application for the proposed North Doncaster Rail Chord was submitted to the IPC on 22 June 2011. The Commissioner appointed has 28 days in which to decide whether or not to accept it for IPC examination. In deciding whether or not to accept an application, a range of factors have to be considered, including the adequacy of the local community consultation undertaken by the developer, whether the developer has had regard to any relevant consultation responses received and whether all required application documents have been submitted. The IPC does not though assess the merits of proposed projects at application acceptance stage.

Following receipt of this application, the IPC has written to the 'host' local authority for this scheme, Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council, and neighbouring local authorities inviting them to submit a response commenting on the adequacy of the developer's pre-application consultation and publicity. The IPC must, amongst other matters, have regard to any such responses received when deciding whether or not to accept this application. If the application is accepted, the IPC will later invite the 'host' and neighbouring local authorities to submit a Local Impact Report setting out details of what they consider are the likely impacts of the proposed development on their areas.

If the application is accepted, any member of the public will be able to register as an interested party. The deadline for registering as an interested party will be publicised by the developer in the local and national press as well as by the IPC on our website. Interested parties will then have the opportunity to give their views throughout the process.

During examination of applications, individuals and groups who have registered their interest can submit representations in writing to inform the IPC's decision, or recommendation to the relevant Secretary of State. Where Commissioner(s) hold open floor or issue specific hearings during the examination any interested party can, subject to the Commissioner(s)' management of proceedings, make oral representations about the application.

The IPC encourages local people and others to give their views on proposed projects and is committed to ensuring that if the application is accepted, interested parties have an opportunity to take part in the process.

If the application is accepted, then we will consider holding a meeting to inform the local community of how they can be involved in the examination process, although we will not be able to discuss the merits of the application.

I hope this letter helps to reassure you that you and your constituents' observations will be taken into consideration; I have also enclosed further information about the IPC process.

Yours sincerely

Kathryn Powell
Case Leader



northdoncasterchord@infrastructure.gsi.gov.uk

cc Councillor A Jones
Councillor A White

The IPC gives advice about applying for an order granting development consent or making representations about an application (or a proposed application). The IPC takes care to ensure that the advice we provide is accurate. This correspondence does not however constitute legal advice upon which you can rely and you should note that IPC lawyers are not covered by the compulsory professional indemnity insurance scheme. You should obtain your own legal advice and professional advice as required.

We are required by law to publish on our website a record of the advice we provide and to record on our website the name of the person or organisation who asked for the advice. We will however protect the privacy of any other personal information which you choose to share with us and we will not hold the information any longer than is necessary.

You should note that we have a Policy Commitment to Openness and Transparency and you should not provide us with confidential or commercial information which you do not wish to be put in the public domain.