

**STOP  
NORWICH  
URBANISATION**  
the voice of the local community



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**13<sup>th</sup> January 2010**

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Inspector Roy Foster  
C/o Programme Officer  
Claypit Hall  
Foxearth  
Sudbury  
Suffolk  
CO10 7JD

Dear Inspector Foster,

**GNDP JOINT CORE STRATEGY  
PUBLIC EXAMINATION – INSPECTORS’ CHANGES TO BE ADVERTISED**

I was at the last public hearing of the above document and since then I have received notification from the Programme Officer with regard to the above.

This notification was dated 30<sup>th</sup> December and advises interested parties of the need to advertise the possible changes to the JCS and gives a cut off date of Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February. This is not my, or my colleagues from SNUB and other community groups, recollection of your stated intention.

You may recall that your advice was that these changes were substantial enough to warrant a full 6 week consultation and in the course of that decision you rebutted the approach from legal council of the GNDP who was arguing that these changes were insignificant and they could be advertised with 4 weeks allowed for the responses.

Furthermore I seem to recollect that you stated that any communications should be sent out after the holidays, which we all took to be in early January. As you will note this latest missive was sent on the 30<sup>th</sup> Dec and provides just over 4 weeks for response. Furthermore the documents issued with these changes are currently running at 50 pages with no guarantees that there will not be more. This confirms the fact that these changes are material and require sufficient time for a qualitative response.

We now have a situation whereby the chance for community groups, such as ours and Parish Councils, to meet and digest these changes is limited by the completely unnecessary haste. If we are to consult with local residents then we need sufficient time to communicate these changes, facilitate meetings to gather responses and

then to commit this to one electronic copy and three hard copies. Hardly conducive to consultation as promoted by the Aarhus Convention.

We all believe that the timetable should have been along the lines of a letter dated Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January with responses required by Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February thus permitting groups who are, in the main, organising the response in their spare time. I would appreciate your views on this and your support for this extension of the deadline for these reasons.

Incidentally you may also like to know that despite your view that you saw no reason why the GNDP should not allow members of the public into their meetings they have still decided to hold their meetings in private.

Yours sincerely



**Stephen Heard<sup>1</sup>**  
**Chair**  
**Stop Norwich Urbanisation**



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PS. We have just been advised that the deadline for responding to the changes has been extended from 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb to 5pm Friday 4<sup>th</sup> Feb due to the fact that the advertisement in the local weekly press did not appear until 7<sup>th</sup> Jan. This will give local residents who spot the advertisement just 4 weeks and still does not provide the 6 weeks that you agreed to. Just another example of a consultation error by the GNDP in their haste to push this JCS through the process!

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<sup>1</sup> Shortlisted as national finalist for the **SMK Campaigner Awards 2010** in the Local Campaigner category [www.smk.org.uk](http://www.smk.org.uk)