



Attachment to email

Annette Feeney
Programme Officer for Examination in Public
of GNDP Joint Core Strategy by Inspector David Vickery

13 May 2013

Dear Inspector Vickery,

Hypocrisy of Planning in Consultations, Hearings and Inquiries.

Further to my letter of submission dated 15 April 2013 Re the GNDP Joint Core Strategy Growth Triangle – Consultation for Residents:

I received your message regarding what you are legally unable to allow for discussion in your Examination in Public and I briefly replied in the email carrying this letter.

I consider the following to be important because it resonates with many people who have been involved in the various large scale planning proposals described by the Joint Core Strategy; the NE Growth Triangle, the Northern Distributor Road and the Postwick Hub.

This report describes in summary form the serious deficiencies in local government planning as it affects democratic consultation and when planning practice defies planning principles and where ethics are disregarded.

If such material is outside your remit then an examination in public is quite futile in my opinion.

There is overwhelming evidence supporting the above statements from individuals and organizations in what has to be unprecedented in any of the councils that make up this unelected Greater Norwich Development Partnership.

From my own involvement I have observed the following illogical and undemocratic decision-making:

As a universal principle everything should be considered within its context because failure to do so invites error and one would be hard pressed to find a better example of this than planning to prove this rule. For example it was reported that at the Pre-Inquiry on 8th May 2013 into the A47 Slip and Side Road Orders, also known as the Postwick Hub, Norfolk County Council's barrister stated that this was not a public inquiry into the NDR so we will not be presenting evidence supporting the NDR. However objectors argued the two schemes were inextricably linked, but the Inspector said he had been appointed

only to consider the statutory orders regarding the draft orders for slip and side roads.

Yet all of these planning projects/proposals are not just inter-related but have been stipulated by GNDP to be inter-dependent. For example at the Pre-Hearing for the JCS it was clearly stated by their spokesman No NDR – No JCS and that there was no Plan B. Yet it is forbidden by pre-emptive rules for so called ‘consultees’ to link or question related contextual issues, they are confined, corralled, denied and ignored without any form of redress except to take the matter up with the Local Government Ombudsman that has become an agency to smother such complaints.

It was also acknowledged by the same spokesman and a representative of the then East of England Regional Authority that this JCS was in fact an edict. This admission was the first evidence of gross hypocrisy about this public consultation. It was also the first and only public acknowledgement that the massive consultation into the JCS was in fact a sham but there was never an answer given to the repeatedly posed question as to why this consultation and its findings had been binned. Also matters such as undemocratic consultation or any semblance of accountability for failure to consult or disclose the content of secret meetings are always, we find ‘outside the scope’ of the EiP or Inquiry.

It is an indictment of our so called democratic constitution that tax-payers who see their money so ill-used to also have to take expensive legal action to get anything like approaching redress while further tax-payers money is spent trying to circumvent such High Court rulings

Because this JCS and related issues has been long running, this autocratic behavior has manifested itself in various ways time and again to great consternation. Also the rules that are set for fair hearing are found to be far from fair and it has become a familiar pattern of resentment and derision.

I would therefore suggest that if you are really concerned to hear what residents are concerned about that you regard this letter as an indicator.

This is not a gripe but a record for future reference

Yours sincerely,
Robert Craggs

cc: Adam Banham Planning Officer; Phil Kirby CEO Broadland DC; Cllr. Shaun Vincent Broadland DC Planning Portfolio Holder; June Hunt Clerk Sprowston Town Council; Cllr Bill Couzens; Chloe Smith MP; Martyn Mance DCLG; Rt Hon Eric Pickles DCLG; Residents.