

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



**Border Lodge
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Mrs Louise St John Howe
Programme Officer
Examination in Public
Claypit Hall
Foxearth
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CO10 7JD

Dear Mrs Howe

I refer to your request to see the petition of 3200 signatures raised by Stop Norwich Urbanisation against the large-scale housing developments called for in the Joint Core Strategy submitted for examination by the Greater Norwich Development Partnership.

We have discussed this request at our regular Core Group meeting and taken advice from the Information Commission around data protection, as we were concerned that we may inadvertently be falling foul of data protection laws.

More importantly we felt that we would be, by exposing the full details of all signatories to third parties like the GNDP and Building Partnerships, betraying the trust and privacy of the petitioners. This was not immediately apparent when Mr Knowles from Building Partnerships discussed this issue with Mr Lanyon one of the Core Group members of Stop Norwich Urbanisation at the EIP forum. We are sorry if there was any misunderstanding in that conversation.

We intuitively feel that full disclosure to third parties is a step further than is necessary as we have some responsibility for the privacy of the petitioners. Indeed the advice from the Information Commissioner confirmed this intuition as they advise that we might well be breaching the Act by handing the petition or part of the petition over - individuals might NOT have signed the petition if they knew it was going to be shared with the local council and developer.

However we are happy to show both third parties the physical petition at the EIP meeting tomorrow, Thursday 9th December, and Mr Lanyon will have the petition with him for that purpose. He will also be able to provide a blank copy of the signature sheet should anyone wish to have this.

You will recollect that in our submission to the Inspector that we stated that the petition was presented to our local MP, Mr Keith Simpson, at Westminster on Monday 8th Nov. Details of this presentation including a video of the interview with Mr Simpson are available on our Website, Blog and You Tube site. In presenting the petition to Mr Simpson he undertook to pass it on to the relevant Ministers at DCLG (Grant Shapps MP and Eric Pickles MP). An email follow up was sent to both Ministers on the 19th Nov reminding them of this petition and its relevance in the current Localism debate.

Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding to this request however you must understand that we are a small core group of local residents who all have full time careers and it is difficult to arrange meetings where important issues like this can be discussed. In addition we do not, as a small community group with no funds, have access to legal advice or the support of large back office functions such as other participants at the EIP.

We do however have integrity and an absolute remit from local residents, hence the large number of individuals who have signed our petition, who are against the proposed wholesale development of the North East growth triangle of Norwich.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Heard', written in a cursive style.

Stephen Heard
Chair
Stop Norwich Urbanisation