

RF132

Norwich and Norfolk Transport Action Group

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Mr Simon Wright MP
Norwich South Constituency
9 Europa Way
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28 January 2011

Dear Simon Wright,

**Joint Core Strategy for Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk
Public Consultation on Inspector's Possible Changes
Policy 10 and Policy 20: Flexibility and Resilience of the JCS in relation to
the Norwich Northern Distributor Road - deadline Friday 4 February**

We expect that you have been following progress on the Public Examination into the Greater Norwich Joint Core Strategy which as you know has been made dependent on a Norwich Northern Distributor Road (NNDR).

At the Examination in Public on 23 November, the Planning Inspector invited the Greater Norwich Development Partnership (GNDP) to consider a 'Plan B partial alternative' for serving growth, in particular a proposed growth triangle in Broadland district, due to uncertainty over funding of the NNDR (RF 75 copy enclosed). A Plan B is a more realistic solution in the current climate. It would relieve community uncertainty and it would not leave the Joint Core Strategy open to a likely review in five years time.

The GNDP conceded that significant development could take place in advance of the NNDR, but it ignored the invitation to prepare a Plan B and came back with a proposal which simply altered the timing of the road scheme to 2016/17. The Inspector has published the GNDP's amendments for public consultation (RF 117 copy enclosed).

The GNDP had released its suggested changes on 2 December for discussion at the last day of the examination on 9 December. To the frustration of developers and environmental groups alike, the Inspector came to the hearing having appeared to have made up his mind in favour of accepting the GNDP's position, despite raising strong concerns in November. The Inspector did not hear the evidence against the GNDP proposals and the hearing ran out of time for considering Plan B alternatives even though developers had informed the Inspector on 23 November that the NNDR was not required for serving growth.

Barton Wilmore, for example, wanted to discuss an alternative Plan B that involved incremental improvements to Postwick Junction in conjunction with inner link roads shown in the Broadland Local Plan. (RF 107 copy enclosed). Environmental groups endorsed this approach. However, just one morning was given over to this whole issue on 9 December and time ran out.

At the time, the Inspector indicated that he would consider holding a further day's hearing to discuss such matters. However, as you will see from the notice advertising the public consultation (copy enclosed), the Inspector has since then decided against this course of action for reasons unknown to us. Instead, he is intending to deal with matters through written representations.

In our view, this is highly unsatisfactory. We believe that a further day's hearing is required for enabling parties to put forward Plan B alternatives transport alternatives. It would be a lost opportunity if the Public Examination were to close without discussing this important issue.

Therefore, we would be grateful for your help by writing to the Inspector by the public consultation deadline of Friday 4 February and asking that he holds a further day's hearing for consideration of alternative Plan B transport proposals.

We hope that you can help us and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Denise Carlo
Chair, Norwich and Norfolk Transport Action Group

John Peacock
Area Representative, Living Streets (Norfolk)

John Woods

Coordinator, Norfolk Buswatch

Michael Dale
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