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To: Louise St John Howe, Programme Officer
For attention of:
Inspector Roy Foster
And Asst Inspector Mike Fox

From: Robert Craggs
30 January 2011

Subject:

GNDP Joint Core Strategy – Inspector’s Possible Changes: Flexibility and Resilience of the JCS in relation to the Northern Distributor Road.

Dear Inspector Foster,

I object to several important failures surrounding this entire Joint Core Strategy right up to and including the fact that this matter is not being concluded in public. From start to finish this saga has been flawed as a consultation exercise. The largest and most expensive and time consuming of it’s kind to my knowledge, it had as it’s purpose detailed consultations with the public in order to find the basis for a Joint Core Strategy. As it transpired it became obvious that the undemocratically formed Greater Norwich Development Partnership had a hidden agenda from the outset and continued to pursue their aims via an unannounced Extraordinary General meetings to approve their JCS which itself derived from an earlier edict by the Labour led unelected East of England Regional Assembly. As for the findings of the public consultation they were completely disregarded and did not see the light of day.

However these submissions contain many worthy and sensible suggestions, many of which could be described and incorporated as a Dispersal Strategy. These suggestions though not debated still stand as incontrovertible evidence of public commonsense and stand in contrast to your own judgment for three simple reasons:

1. In the form of a Dispersal strategy they offer far more flexibility than you are trying to use to accommodate GNDP’s JCS edict.
2. They do not depend on a Northern Distributor Road as a pre-condition.
3. They constitute more than a Plan B which GNDP have blatantly refused to produce even though you concluded yourself at the Exploratory Meeting on 13 May 2010 that without a Plan B the JCS was fatally flawed.

The public disgust at how this entire JCS has been conducted is well known even to higher powers in government. It is not the wish of the people who have become further disgusted at the immense amount of public money wasted on a project the public do not want and when hundreds of people are losing their jobs because of financial cuts. People will naturally equate the folly of the GNDP in terms of how many jobs losses could have been avoided or more to the point more prudent use of such money, as has been suggested, could have been made if waste on this scale had stopped a long time ago.

Now we face even greater expenditure on further work on this project.

This JCS is not the best way to proceed in the interests of either Norwich or Norfolk as has been pointed out by many people including highly respected architects.

We would suggest that you drop ideas of Flexibility and Resilience to accommodate an unwelcome GNDP Strategy and start by looking at what is best achieved without an NDR and or GNDP's ideas for a Postwick Hub

Even after all this time an alternative Plan B has not been discussed. At the last EiP meeting one Parish Councilor placed on the table a portion (albeit a very large) pile of documents that were just summaries of the public consultation and asked Phil Kirby what his reaction to the public consultation was and he did not answer. An answer is still required and consideration given to an alternative strategy.

An alternative strategy centred on the south near to research facilities and the A11 and where essential infrastructure already exists makes more sense.

To close this saga with the public denied an answer to this question, with no time given to a plan B that they offer and no public hearing to the conclusions just adds to the contempt the public has for this entire travesty of what was called a public consultation.

A great deal of money could have been saved by listening to and acting on suggestions made by the public, yet spending on an NDR continues unabated with tongue in cheek suggestions of cut backs.

As for this growth triangle development crucial aspects such as the propensity for flooding have been paid scant regard.

Yours Sincerely
Robert Craggs