
From: POservices [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 July 2010 10:23
To: 'Robert Craggs'
Cc: Joint Core Strategy
Subject: RE: Greater Norwich Dev. Partnership JCS Focussed Changes Consultation

Dear Mr Craggs,

Thank you for including me in this email. For your information, an Exploratory Meeting is a public meeting between the Council/s concerned and the Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State, called by the Inspector, to address initial concerns raised by the Inspector after an initial reading of the Development Plan Document. In the case of the EM into the JCS, the Inspector decided to allow those interested to speak on the matter.

After the meeting, the Inspector sent a letter to GNDP through me which raised their concerns and suggested that more work was needed before the hearing sessions could start. GNDP responded that this additional work would be undertaken and this latest consultation is part of this further work.

The hearing sessions at which all those who have made representations can indicate that they wish to take part will take place in the autumn.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours

Simon Osborn

From: Robert Craggs [mailto:bcraggs@googlemail.com]
Sent: 14 July 2010 19:14
To: Grant Shapps MP; Chloe Smith MP; Simon Osborn Programme Officer JCS
Cc: Keith Simpson MP; Phil Kirby; Sandra Eastaugh; Malcolm Martins; June Hunt; Mollie Howes; Tony & Ann Stubbs; Marc & Kim & Pierce Allen; Natalie Wallace; Nick & Pauline Millar; Ben Hogben; Francis & Lisa Madden
Subject: Greater Norwich Dev. Partnership JCS Focussed Changes Consultation

Dear Mr Shapps,

For reference to the subject matter please see attached a letter dated 5 July 2010 from Sandra Eastaugh Manager of Greater Norwich Development Partnership (GNDP). This refers to the new round of 'consultations' that the GNDP is going to be holding from Monday 19 July until 30 August 2010.

The first point I wish to make is that the 'consultations' around the Joint Core Strategy have been extensive and expensive but shambolic as evidenced by the binning of feedback analyses which though originally promised to be the foundation for the formulation of the strategy has instead been suppressed by the planners. I can only assume that this is because the objective criticism and the alternative suggestions such as dispersal strategies were not in keeping with the Eastern Regional Governments edict. This 'edict' description is accurate because it was established to be the case at the Inspectors Exploratory Meeting on 13 May 2010. The Inspectors comments at this meeting were consistent with the findings of the Joint Core Strategy consultation feedback and the comments from the floor at that full day meeting. It was evident to anyone attending that meeting that the strategy was fatally if not seriously flawed in terms of soundness or legality.

However much to everyone's confusion Broadland District Council (BDC) in conjunction with the GNDP has persisted in carrying on regardless and arranging exhibitions and further consultations only to subsequently cancel these arrangements, adding to the confusion the words 'cancel' and 'postpone' in the same context. This last letter of 5 July shown below is annoying because:

1. As yet there is no explanation provided about what this Focussed Changes Consultation is, so no one can give the matter thought before the consultation starts. My inquiries today were fruitless and of course this narrow window for consultation is right in the middle of the holiday period.

2. GNDP or Broadland District Council have not explained precisely what the Exploratory Meeting (EM) of 13 May actually represented in layman terms. Instead they rushed out a self-flatteringly favourable but misleading impression about this EM, followed by notes about exhibitions and consultation arrangements before the Inspectors even issued their Guidance Notes. Many people who attended that Exploratory Meeting have quite different interpretations to what the GNDP and BDC have so far conveyed and therefore people are confused about what is going on.

I would hasten to add that I do not regard any communication from your Department about the Revocation of Regional Strategies to be adding to the confusion in any way, since the letter of 6 July 2010 on this subject is consistent with the letter about the Abolition of Regional Spatial Strategies dated August 2009 from Caroline Spelman when she was Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. Previous government edicts have obviously contributed to the problems but the fundamental issue lies with ineffective and meaningless consultation by GNDP and BDC and the public. Irrespective of what political party is elected the substance and findings of consultation with the public on matters affecting their communities remains the same. Unfortunately, the entire consultation submissions relating to the Joint Core Strategy that have taken place over a very lengthy period have it seems been disregarded.

Lack of effective consultation in the public sector has been the source of most problems and distrust in this area for many years.

Yesterday I attended the final and well attended meeting on the Belmore Park Charrette organised by the Broadland Land Group and I attended a workshop a few days prior to that. No matter whether one agrees or disagrees with the proposals as they stand, one cannot but praise Broadland Land Group for the very effective consultation process which stands in stark contrast to any claim to consultation that Broadland District Council or Norfolk County Council has carried out and people in attendance were vociferous and absolutely unanimous in making these criticisms. This contrast in consultation is similar to the difference in consultation practised by successful private organizations who **have** to gain the trust and cooperation of shareholders; customers, employees and the community in order to exist. Both 'bottom up' and 'top down approaches' to consultation are effective of course, depending upon the situation, but when trust needs to be restored as a pre-requisite then the bottom up approach is needed and it has to be in earnest.

I would commend to you the Charrette approach adopted by Broadland Land Group. I had never heard of this until a couple of weeks ago but having acquainted myself with it, I find that the principles of involvement; openness; candour, exploring ideas and confronting issues is exactly the same as practised as second nature by successful organisations in this country and elsewhere for many years.

There has got to be candour and openness with how this entire GNDP Joint Core Strategy has been conducted and it must be put on a democratic footing otherwise it will create further animosity. We have got to have credible ground rules for effective consultation. A simple test is that if a Council Officer or Member can look people straight in the eye like a manager or representative and ask the questions have you been consulted, in the proper meaning of the word which includes: Have you been informed? Have you had your say about suggestions and objections? Have you had your questions answered? Have people been fairly treated? - then that is a good indication of intent and the degree of trust existing or being cultivated. We are light years away from that culture but the Charrette approach proves that this consultative approach does not take long when issues are confronted with candour and openness.

I would suggest that you take the temperature on this issue. Perhaps our local MP's can broker some trust to get an agreed strategy because whilst I do not know what these 'Focussed Changes

Consultation' means, I am not filled with optimism.

I am at your disposal to elaborate further.

Yours sincerely,
Robert Craggs tel: 01603 402428

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