

Wroxham Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs. D.R.Wyatt
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9th May 2013

Annette Feeney,
Programme Officer,
JCS Examination

Dear Programme Officer,

We note that we have been listed as a participant at the hearing on Tuesday 21 May 2013 and thank you for considering our representations. We have further noted the questions on which the Inspector invited comment and wish to submit the following.

As a small Parish Council with limited resources, we feel that we are not qualified to comment on whether all reasonable alternative sites have been identified or, in legalistic detail, whether the Councils have complied fully with the High Court Order (your questions 1.1, 1.2, 1.3). Nor do we feel competent to comment on questions 1.6 and 1.7. However, as those most affected by the traffic congestion, noise and pollution on the A1151 Wroxham Road where it converges on the narrow bridge between Wroxham and Hoveton, we are the best qualified to comment on concerns about the effect of significant development alongside this road and whether proper consideration has been given to those concerns in choosing between the alternatives. (Your questions 1.4, 1.5 and 3.1). Not being a prescribed body we do not appear to be qualified to comment on your question 2 except to state that we are not aware of any consultation with members of adjoining LPAs, specifically with the North Norfolk District Council who share our concerns regarding the A1151 as it passes into that District and especially the effect on Hoveton within that District. We find that, although the Councils wish to consider Wroxham as a key service centre, not because of its own facilities but entirely because of its proximity to Hoveton in the area of the North Norfolk District Council, they do not appear to take account of NNDC in their nearby planning.

Your Questions 1.4 and 1.5.

We have considered the councils' response in SDJCS 7 to the representations stated in our letter dated 2nd November 2012 and the multiple individual responses from our residents, which we believe are incorrectly described as a "petition". We find the Detailed Officer Response "**Traffic issues in Wroxham**" defensive and blinkered. We believe that the officers are overlooking the inevitable and, in our view, based on experience, significant impact on this region of this road. Our own informal discussions with Highways Authorities confirm that far from providing relief to the A1151 the NDR will, even without the work in progress and proposed growth in housing, result in some traffic increase. Anyone who lives in Wroxham is well aware that this road is often near maximum capacity today without these developments such that even a small event causes long queues back beyond the southern approaches to the village and access from side roads frequently becomes difficult and even dangerous..

The officers play down the possible increase in traffic referring only to leisure trips to the Broads and North Norfolk Coast and development of new employment opportunities north of

the river. This chooses to ignore a major shopping facility in Hoveton which already attracts customers from a wide area and undoubtedly would attract many customers from any housing development in the near vicinity. Bank holiday opening or a Sale already results in traffic jams. They also fail to note a major and expanding theme park, other activities to the north of Hoveton and HGV traffic especially during the sugar beet campaign.

This road, which already suffers major congestion, will become a serious problem to mobility and health with any increase in traffic. We represent that this has not been given consideration in choosing between alternatives. We submit that the impact would be less and more manageable with Alternative 2.

The suggestion that cycle tracks and BRT routes would avoid the issue is wishful thinking and without any logical foundation although it may be more arguable with Alternative 2.

Your Question 3

We do not have the resources to study legislation or Statements of Community Involvement or comment in legalistic terms on compliance or otherwise. However, we can express our perception that, whatever the detailed legislation may say, its spirit is not complied with. We find a lack of will to seriously discover and take account of residents' opinion and experience.

We do not accept that limited publicity of a period of "consultation" on complex and extensive documents which may be accessed on a web site or in public libraries will attract response from normal intelligent lay people who are busy going about their lives. We cannot be expected to seek out "Council Committee papers and minutes". We hold that any officer who really wants to seek the views of residents and really understands the issues and documents is capable of producing a relatively simple summary of the key issues and questions which will evoke a response from residents. The "Non-technical Summary" to the Sustainability Appraisal, to which the officers refer, is itself 10 pages long and is more of an extract than a simplified summary.

Yours faithfully,



For and on behalf of Wroxham Parish council