

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



**Border Lodge
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Inspector Roy Foster
C/o Programme Officer
Claypit Hall
Foxearth
Sudbury
Suffolk
CO10 7JD

Dear Inspector Foster,

**GNDP JOINT CORE STRATEGY
PUBLIC EXAMINATION – INSPECTORS’ CHANGES TO BE ADVERTISED**

I was at the last public hearing of the above document and since then I have received notification from the Programme Officer with regard to the above.

This notification was dated 30th December and advises interested parties of the need to advertise the possible changes to the JCS and gives a cut off date of Wednesday 2nd February. This is not my, or my colleagues from SNUB and other community groups, recollection of your stated intention.

You may recall that your advice was that these changes were substantial enough to warrant a full 6 week consultation and in the course of that decision you rebutted the approach from legal council of the GNDP who was arguing that these changes were insignificant and they could be advertised with 4 weeks allowed for the responses.

Furthermore I seem to recollect that you stated that any communications should be sent out after the holidays, which we all took to be in early January. As you will note this latest missive was sent on the 30th Dec and provides just over 4 weeks for response. Furthermore the documents issued with these changes are currently running at 50 pages with no guarantees that there will not be more. This confirms the fact that these changes are material and require sufficient time for a qualitative response.

We now have a situation whereby the chance for community groups, such as ours and Parish Councils, to meet and digest these changes is limited by the completely unnecessary haste. If we are to consult with local residents then we need sufficient time to communicate these changes, facilitate meetings to gather responses and

then to commit this to one electronic copy and three hard copies. Hardly conducive to consultation as promoted by the Aarhus Convention.

We all believe that the timetable should have been along the lines of a letter dated Monday 10th January with responses required by Friday 20th February thus permitting groups who are, in the main, organising the response in their spare time. I would appreciate your views on this and your support for this extension of the deadline for these reasons.

Incidentally you may also like to know that despite your view that you saw no reason why the GNDP should not allow members of the public into their meetings they have still decided to hold their meetings in private.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Heard¹
Chair
Stop Norwich Urbanisation



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PS. We have just been advised that the deadline for responding to the changes has been extended from 2nd Feb to 5pm Friday 4th Feb due to the fact that the advertisement in the local weekly press did not appear until 7th Jan. This will give local residents who spot the advertisement just 4 weeks and still does not provide the 6 weeks that you agreed to. Just another example of a consultation error by the GNDP in their haste to push this JCS through the process!

¹ Shortlisted as national finalist for the SMK Campaigner Awards 2010 in the Local Campaigner category www.smk.org.uk