



Date: 14 May 2020
Email: Leaderspa@suffolk.gov.uk

By email only: Sharon Smith
parishclerkthebertoneastbridge@gmail.com

Dear Sharon

Thank you for your letter dated 11th May 2020.

You state accurately in your letter that we '... are supportive of [EDF Energy] submitting [their] application for the Development Consent Order (DCO) in the next few weeks and commencing the initial 28-day period for PINS to assess whether they accept your application.' However, we think it is very important that we all understand that for the first 28 days, the process dictates that the public does not get to see the submission so they cannot possibly be disadvantaged until that period is over.

The question of course is will it be appropriate, after 28 days following the DCO submission, to trigger the section s56 public engagement? That is the critical point and it is at this point (which will be in EDF Energy's gift to decide) whether or not to immediately trigger the next stage of the process. The important concerns you have raised in your letter will then become a consideration. Can we quote to you again what we said on this important matter in our letter to EDF Energy:

'The Councils would like it to be known that we have significant concerns regarding the public engagement element of the Section 56 consultation period. Given the current Government guidance on social distancing, social isolation and public gatherings, we ask you to delay the Section 56 consultation until such time as all parties, including EDF Energy, PINS and the Councils are satisfied that appropriate public engagement can take place. In particular, there are certain areas within the Councils including the Fire Service, Public Health and Housing who are under significant resource pressure currently. If we have staff shortages, we may be able to instruct consultants but that would be dependent on the availability of core staff to instruct them.'

When you reread the above passage, we hope you will have a better understanding of our position. We gave careful consideration to the Parishes' stance on the appropriateness of a DCO submission and it is true that we have not adopted a position of total opposition to a DCO application submission. Our view is, and remains, that there must be appropriate public engagement and we will come to a view on what that looks like when we know what the prevailing conditions are at the time.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matthew Hicks".

Cllr Matthew Hicks
Leader Suffolk County Council

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Gallant".

Cllr Steve Gallant
Leader East Suffolk Council



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