Environmental Information Regulations – Response - 28116

I'm trying to talk to anyone who was involved in a multi stakeholder project to turn spare ground at DARSHAM Country Centre / Darsham Station – SCC being a major 'player' in this scheme. After several years in planning, It was eventually cancelled – no reasons offered – 4 or five years ago.

Persons within SCC whose names I recall in this matter are:- Tracey Vobe, Alastair Bisset & Simon Barnett.

SCC's 'enthusiasm' for the project at that time included commissioning a test bore of the intended ground (an old Tennis Court & surrounds) to determine possible toxicity .

The Directors of Darsham CC were never given sight of this report at the time or when the project was cancelled.

Could this report be located and a copy sent to myself/

The scheme was to be funded jointly by Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council (now East Suffolk) but was abandoned in 2018. It may be recalled that (as is shown in the attached email correspondence between the Councils and County Centre: file *"Email 18-11-2018 - Agreement for additional new Parking at Darsham Station_redacted.pdf"*), Greater Anglia reviewed their station parking provision and were minded not to introduce charges, which would have made charging for parking on the land unviable. The drainage requirements discussed below and other design alterations such as ticket machines etc. meant costs had also risen from an original estimate of £80-90,000 up to £177,000 and there was insufficient funding available.

Additionally, it proved impossible to get agreement with the adjacent landowner about their rights regarding possible blocking the access path to the proposed car park site. Such a move could lead to cars being backed up across the shared forecourt area and onto the A12, which would not be acceptable.

It should be noted that, in line with Local Government policy, there is a 7-year retention period on most Council files. The only reference to a borehole the files that are still retained occurs in email correspondence from the Highways contractor in place at the time, with no report retained. This was to check the soakaway under the tennis court as part of the drainage design work. The original intention was for an impermeable car park surface to drain into this soakaway, but underlying clay soil would mean low infiltration rates leading to the soakaway being overwhelmed. The design was changed to be a porous surface, with all rainwater simply soaking through that then into the soil across the entire car park area, which follows the same model used at the Martlesham Park & Ride site.

There is no evidence on file that an investigation was carried out into pollutants within the subsoil.

[redacted]

Subject: FW: Agreement for additional new Parking at Darsham Station

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@cam.ac.uk>
Sent: 18 November 2018 20:59
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@eastsuffolk.gov.uk>; [redacted] ([redacted]@talktalk.net) <[redacted]@talktalk.net>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@eastsuffolk.gov.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@suffolk.gov.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@eastsuffolk.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Agreement for additional new Parking at Darsham Station

Dear all,

Our trustees met recently and considered this news. As you know our view has been that if we could we would help provide car parking facilities as we understood that the local community wanted them to be expanded at Darsham from the small and badly located car park which currently exists.

It would probably be easier for us to sell the site for housing development but before we make any decision we felt we should ask the local councillors and parish council for their views and this we have done. It may be that they can discuss the issue with Greater Anglia.

best regards

[redacted]

DCC

On 27/09/2018 17:40, [redacted] wrote:

> Dear [redacted],
>
> Thank you for your last e-mail following which a meeting was held on Monday 24 September.
>
> There have been identified a number of issues that have given cause for the District and County Councils to review the financial viability of the proposed scheme.
>
> I set out our main concerns as follows:
>
> 1. The estimated costs of construction have more than doubled to £177,000.00.
> 2. As a result of Greater Anglia's review of their car parking at stations, there is now considerable doubt that they will make charges for car parking on their car park or indeed enter into any management agreement with the District. Clearly the impact of this on the projected revenue in the new car park is detrimental.
>
> As a result of these two fundamental points, the decision has reluctantly been taken to withdraw from the proposed agreement.
>
> We appreciate that the lack of car parking for rail users remains an issue however, this may be addressed in future by the train operating company.

I understand that this will be disappointing but, in light of the above you will no doubt appreciate the position in which we find ourselves.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]
FCILEX
Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils
[redacted]
Email-[redacted]@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Confidentiality: This email and its attachments are intended for the above named only and may be confidential. If they have come to you in error you must take no action based on them, nor must you copy or show them to anyone; please reply to this email and highlight the error.

Security Warning: Please note that this email has been created in the knowledge that Internet email is not a 100% secure communications medium. We advise that you understand and accept this lack of security when emailing us.

Viruses: Although we have taken steps to ensure that this email and attachments are free from any virus, we advise that in keeping with good computing practice the recipient should ensure they are actually virus free.

This message has been scanned for malware by Websense. www.websense.com