Suffolk Minerals & Waste Local Plan
SCC EiP Opening Statement

June
2019
Contact

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For more information about our minerals and waste planning policy go to:

Cover photograph acknowledgements:

1. Gt Blakenham Energy from Waste Facility, courtesy of SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK Ltd, and;

2. Cavenham Quarry, with permission from Allen Newport Ltd.
Sir,

Good morning and a welcome to Suffolk. I am John Pitchford, Head of Planning at the County Council

I understand that you have had an opportunity already to see some of the county. We consider that it is particularly attractive and offers a good quality of life. The County Council as the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority has the duty to provide a plan which allows for the winning of construction materials and the management of waste and it has to do this while protecting that attractive environment and the interests of residents, businesses and visitors. The Council has sought to achieve this balance in the Local Plan which is before this examination.

As you will be aware, the Council has undertaken two stages of Regulation 18 consultations, an Issues and Options stage in late 2016/early 2017 and a Preferred Strategy stage in late 2017. At each step, we have sought to take into account the views of the respondents – though it has not been possible to allay every concern. Following that, the Regulation 19 version was approved by our full Council for submission to the Planning Inspectorate for examination on 24 May 2018.

In light of the European Court Judgement at approximately this time (the so-called “People over Wind” judgement), which ruled that environmental mitigation cannot be taken into account when determining if an Appropriate Assessment is required, it was considered prudent to prepare an Appropriate Assessment and to undertake a further issue specific consultation on this matter. This was completed in late 2018.

The Local Plan was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 20th December 2018. Since then the Council has been working constructively with objectors to seek to develop Statements of Common Ground and more recently to provide information for the Inquiry. This is probably the right point to thank Annette Feeney for her advice on setting up the inquiry and on the nature of the documents that would be required.

In accordance with Section 20 (7C) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended), the Authority formally requests for you to recommend any modifications that are necessary in order to resolve problems which would otherwise make the Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan unsound or not legally compliant.

This request is made under the above Act in order to enable the Authority to progress the Plan to adoption.

Your principal witness from the County Council for this Inquiry will be Graham Gunby, our Development Manager. He will be supported by a team of our own experts and consultants who have provided advice for us during the preparation of the Plan. They will be available at appropriate times to answer specialist questions that you may have.

I trust that you will have a constructive examination of the Local Plan and that your stay in Suffolk is a pleasant one.
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