

MEET THE CABINET NORTH 4 MARCH 2015

	QUESTION	ANSWER
<p>Ian Deans, Chairman, Ecclesfield Conservation and Local History Group</p>	<p>Proposed MSA at Smithy Wood</p> <p>The public know that the Village Green Hearing for Smithy Wood will be held next month but nothing has been said publicly about the progress towards determining the planning application.</p> <p>In view of the hundreds of objections to this scheme, please provide an update on the additional items that have been sought from the developer since the application was made, on the current position with these and indicate the issues which have and have not been resolved with regard to these items..</p> <p>Will further public meetings be held, to share this additional information and allow the local community to understand and comment on it as part of the public's feedback on the application?</p> <p>In view of the continuing delays, what date has been "pencilled in" currently for determining this application?</p>	<p>Planning Application Progress</p> <p>The delays in the application have been primarily due to requests for additional information with regards the principle of the development and the large scale and complex nature of the development proposal and its likely impact. Until that information is provided and fully assessed a report to Planning Committee cannot be written. Material pertinent to the application is published on the Council's web site.</p> <p>The following topic headings outline the main concerns for the LPA at the present time. With the exception of highways we are awaiting additional information on all the below.</p> <p>Highways</p> <p>The Highways Agency had originally issued a holding direction due to concerns with the safety of the proposal. Various amendments to the junctions and signalisation of the roundabout and exits have been submitted over recent months and this direction has now been lifted. The Highways Agency have now confirmed that they do not have an objection to the proposal.</p> <p>Archaeology</p> <p>South Yorkshire Archaeology Service have raised concern that the surveys submitted thus far have demonstrated that many archaeological features associated with mineral extraction survive within the area proposed for development. However, the evaluation undertaken and submitted failed to find any evidence that would ascribe date, function and purpose to the features,</p>

but was prevented from extending this investigation into potentially more profitable areas by health & safety and ecological restrictions. It is clear that significant archaeological features are present but the archaeological work undertaken so far has failed to demonstrate that the features are of a level of significance which would permit the development to take precedence. Further investigations have been requested in order to address this concern. Without this evidence being provided, the assumption would have to be that the remains were of significance.

Ecological and Arboricultural Matters

We have requested a clarification of a number of points given the nature of the site as Ancient Woodland. More specifically this relates to the Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Site sections, a clarification of the accuracy of the proposed views in the visual and landscape impact assessment, land drainage matters, queries regarding ecological surveys including invertebrates surveys, the ageing of trees and protected species. A preliminary ecological assessment for off site woodlands has also been requested as these form part of the mitigation offered. We are still awaiting the submission of this information.

We have also requested further details of the mitigation proposed and which is referred to as the 'environmental benefits package'. The information in relation to the actual detail, nature and deliverability of this 'package' is required by the LPA in order to be able to make a full assessment. The developer is working on this document and we are awaiting further information in response to this.

		<p>Alternative Sites</p> <p>The LPA has requested further evidence that there are no other alternative sites which would be a viable option for a MSA on the M18, as the MSA is intended to also serve this need but no detailed evidence has been supplied in respect of this. We are still awaiting the submission of this information.</p> <p>Procedure</p> <p>A decision is targeted for <u>June</u>. However, the developer still needs to provide the additional information requested and update the Environmental Statement in response to this. Once this is received there will be a further consultation period with the community/interested parties to allow them to review the additional information submitted before we proceed to any recommendation. This will be formally publicised in the Telegraph and through site notices as was the case previously with this application. It is likely therefore that it will be more appropriate and timely for a decision to be made in <u>September</u>. Given the amount of opposition to the scheme the LPA is clear that a committee during the summer holidays would not be received well.</p>
Jason Colley	How do the Councillors expect to become 'Community Leaders' when some Councillors don't turn up to surgeries or respond to emails?	

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