



Windlesham Parish Council

Sarah Walker
Clerk to the Council
Tel: 01276 471675
Email: sarah.walker@windleshampc.gov.uk
Website: www.windleshampc.gov.uk

The Council Offices
The Avenue
Lightwater
Surrey
GU18 5RG

By email: SouthamptontoLondonPipeline@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

14th November 2019

Dear Sirs,

Written Representation from Windlesham Parish Council

Our submissions relate to the proposed route running alongside Colville Gardens and Herons Court on Turf Hill Lightwater and re-iterate the points from our relevant representation submission.

Inadequate consultation – following two consultations in 2018, where three sub-options were offered (F1 Red Road) - the preferred option being putting the replacement pipeline into the area immediately next to where the existing pipeline is - Esso then announced they had selected the least preferred option, with a deviation. This alternative route was never the subject of consultation, despite the fact it would substantially affect residents who live along this route. Although classed as a “minor deviation” Esso should have included this in their third consultation in early 2019 and afforded Lightwater residents the opportunity to make comments on this route, due to the significant impact for local residents.

Sub-option selection - Full justification has not been provided as to why the sub-options that more closely follow the existing pipeline (F1b and F1c) were not selected. However, it is understood that the presence of sand lizards and the need to protect their habitat has been cited as a significant consideration, based on a report from Natural England. It appears there are several mitigation methods suitable for the preservation of the sand lizard and its habitat and Council are not aware why these methods could not be employed to allow the use of the preferred location option, if indeed the presence of sand lizards is the main factor for discounting sub-options F1b and F1c.

Lack of communication and engagement – Esso failed to inform anyone – Lightwater Councillors or residents – about the variation to the route. At the very least Councillors should have been given the opportunity to discuss the proposed variation with Esso so a mutually acceptable alternative could have been found. Having been told by Esso that a report from Natural England had effectively nullified any local consultation feedback, it would have been favourable to have had a discussion with Natural England, using local knowledge and facts provided by the residents of the area to seek a better outcome. The disregard shown for the local community is entirely unacceptable.

Loss of trees/habitat – the route encompasses a parcel of land at Turf Hill which is densely wooded and immediately backs onto residential properties. The construction of the pipeline will result in the loss of a significant number of trees and the Council is concerned that inadequate attention has been given to the presence of the trees at Turf Hill. Mitigation proposals are vague at best and the impact of the loss of well-established/ancient trees will be significant yet is not addressed. As things

stand any details of tree loss and mitigation would not become available until the DCO was already made.

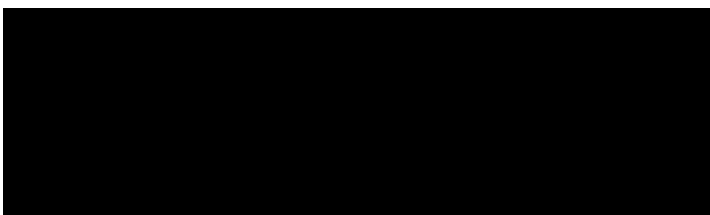
The removal of trees is of great concern not only to the residents who live in close proximity to the area but to all those locally who regularly use the route for walking and recreation. The loss of a large number of trees will potentially give rise to significant impacts on the local community including loss of visual amenity, potential impacts on flood risk, reduction in noise abatement from Red Road, traffic disruption associated with Red Road and damage to the roots of trees having the potential to damage local properties and the impact on the environment.

Flood risk - the Lightwater area is noted in Esso's Flood Risk Assessment as having a high flood risk in relation to residential properties. It is noted that there is potential for flood risk to be exacerbated by the loss of trees in this area and this issue is set out in the flood risk assessment. Mitigation measures are proposed but the Council would want assurances that measures would be effective and the most appropriate and robust measures to address the issue of the increased risk of flooding. It is a primary concern for residents who live in properties bordering the proposed route as some were victims of flooding in 2006/07 and the impact from flooding can be catastrophic.

Disruption during construction – The Council has concerns that impacted residents in Lightwater will face a large amount of disruption during construction including daily noise, fumes, dust and disruption during the six-month construction period; traffic congestion for at least six months on the Guildford Road caused by the movement of contractor's vehicles and heavy plant at the entrance to Turf Hill Park and the potential for the considerable loss of trees to increase flood risk in an area with a history of flooding.

The Parish Council and local residents do support the pipeline replacement project, as the alternative option of road use would cause an undesirable increase in traffic on already heavily congested routes. However, we cannot support this section of the pipeline and still feel that better alternative routes available have not been adequately investigated by Esso.

Yours faithfully,

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of Sarah Walker.

Sarah Walker
Clerk to the Council