

SS21

South Gloucestershire Core Strategy Examination

STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

BETWEEN

SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCIL

AND

Mr Jim Mason

In respect of Chapter 18

Gillian Ellis-King

From: Jim Mason [jrmason@blueyonder.co.uk]

Sent: 23 June 2012 17:42

To: Gillian Ellis-King

Subject: Re: Chapter 18: proposed mini Statement of Common Ground between South Gloucestershire Council and Mr Mason

Dear Gillian Ellis-King,

I confirm that your e-mail accurately records our relative positions on this matter. Thank you for putting the points so clearly.

sincerely,
Jim Mason,

Gillian Ellis-King

From: Gillian Ellis-King
Sent: 22 June 2012 08:36
To: 'jrmason@blueyonder.co.uk'
Subject: FW: Chapter 18: proposed mini Statement of Common Ground between South Gloucestershire Council and Mr Mason

Dear Mr Mason

Further to your representations to the South Gloucestershire Council Core Strategy Examination, and subsequent email exchanges between us, we now write to seek your agreement to a statement that summarises:

1. The issues you have raised,
2. What the Council has proposed to seek to resolve the issues you have raised
3. Any remaining areas of disagreement between the Council and you.

The intention is that if we can agree that this is the current position, we will present the statement to the Inspector for his consideration.

Background

Representations have been submitted to the Examination (and previously during previous consultations on the Core Strategy) by Mr Mason regarding the reference to cooling 'towers' in Chapter 18 of the Core Strategy. Mr Mason is a local resident and objects to any proposal for cooling towers, due to their landscape and visual impact in the context of the Severn Levels.

Mr Mason is of the opinion that there are alternative and less intrusive solutions to meeting the cooling requirements of a nuclear new build power station at Oldbury.

As a result of Mr Mason's representations, the wording of Chapter 18 has been reviewed, and the Council has proposed two changes:

Chapter 18, Paragraph 18.19: proposed rewording to include reference to the landscape setting to the nominated nuclear new build (NNB) site near Oldbury, as indicated in italics. The opening paragraph is now proposed to read: '*The nominated site area is located on the eastern bank of the Severn Estuary, with tidal mudflats and the power station lagoon to the west, and the historic, flat and open pastoral landscape of the Severn Levels to the east.* . It adjoins the north eastern boundary of the existing nuclear power station at Oldbury and covers an area of 150 hectares.' This is consistent with the landscape character descriptions included in the Council's adopted Landscape Character Assessment.

Chapter 18, Paragraph 18.20 has been modified to delete reference to 'cooling towers' and instead refer to 'cooling infrastructure'. This is a more general reference that covers all types of cooling infrastructure, and is considered more appropriate given the early stage of NNB project development. Given the local community concern about the potential scale of natural draught cooling towers, and Horizon's proposed preference for shorter 'hybird' towers, this wording also has the benefit of not conveying the acceptance or otherwise of cooling towers.

In the exchanges with Mr Mason, it has also been explained that the Council would not be the determining authority for an application for a new nuclear power station and as such cannot require that Horizon take any particular approach to cooling systems, and that the selection of cooling technology is a matter for the project promoter. As consultee on Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects however, the Council would engage with a project promoter at the pre-application stage to seek to ensure delivery on the policies contained in the Core Strategy, and would subsequently be able to highlight any impacts in a Local Impact Report that would be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

Matters of agreement

It is appropriate that the supporting text to policy CS37 includes a brief description of the landscape setting to the nominated NNB site.

Matters of Disagreement

Mr Mason considers it would be better if the Core Strategy did not mention the cooling system at all, especially as other aspects of the proposed nuclear power station are not mentioned. He is of the view that direct cooling for NNB would be feasible.

Given the potential scale and significance of impact of cooling facilities that could form part of any proposals for a new nuclear power station at Oldbury, this is an issue that the Council would wish to address in pre-application discussions and potentially in a Local Impact report. Therefore Council considers it important that cooling infrastructure is mentioned in the overall description of the proposed NNB that is included in the supporting text to policy CS37.

We would be most grateful for your confirmation or otherwise that this is the current position regarding the matters you have raised to the Core Strategy Examination. A response by 27 June would be most helpful.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you

gillian

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