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Sent by e-mail

Dear Charlotte

Current Status of Planning Application: Meldreth level crossing (22/05204/FUL)

The Public Inquiry associated to Network Rail's (Cambridge Re-Signalling) Transport and Works Act Order commences today (12th April 2023). As the planning application at Meldreth level crossing, which forms part of the Cambridge Re-Signalling project, is still in the process of being determined, I thought it would be beneficial to provide you with a summary setting out Network Rail's understanding of the current status of the application.

Meldreth level crossing (22/05204/FUL):

- GCSP's Ecology Officer issued a consultation on 14.03.23. The response explained that the potential 53 % BNG loss would not be acceptable and that further work was required. The consultation response went on to suggest that additional trees could be added to the landscape plan and following this, the BNG could be reassessed.
- On 15.04.23 you emailed Network Rail raising concerns in relation to the consultation feedback received from Cambridge County Council's Highway Officer (09.03.23) and GCSP's Ecology Officer (14.03.23).
- Following further email communication between you and Network Rail on 16.03.23 and 17.03.23, a meeting was arranged to discuss the outstanding concerns and Network Rail's approach to resolving them.
- GCSP's Drainage Officer issued consultation comments on 17.03.23. The response noted that additional finished floor levels needed to be provided and further information confirming how the impermeable site access will be drained.

- Shepreth Parish Council provided a further consultation response objecting to the application on 21.03.23. Their objection was based on ecology matters and that the proposals had not been justified. Reference was also made to potential noise impacts from generators being utilised at night similar to Shepreth Station.
- GCSP's Tree Officer issued consultation comments on 22.03.23 in response to the updated Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) which showed less tree removal than originally proposed. The consultation response confirmed that the Tree Officer had no further comments.
- An online meeting between yourself and Network Rail was held on 23.03.23 where Network Rail outlined the scope of proposed amendments and strategy for dealing with outstanding comments. It was agreed that subject to agreeing a further Extension of time, GCSP would allow Network Rail to submit a set of revised plans and documents to address the outstanding concerns. An Extension of time to 28.03.23 was agreed on 23.03.23
- On 31.03.23, Network Rail issued a full set of amended plans and supporting reports (including updated site layout plans, updated swept path layouts, updated Landscaping Screening and Ecological Enhancement Plan, BNG assessment, updated AIA) to address GCSP's officers' comments and feedback from Cambridgeshire County Council's Highways Officer.
- GCSP began re-consultation on the amended plans on 05.04.23 and confirmed this would cover 10 working days (up to 21.04.23).

Following the submission of the amended plans, Network Rail is currently awaiting consultation feedback on the plans. I believe that through the submission of the amended plans Network Rail has sought to address the outstanding matters relating to the application and is ready to respond to any further comments from GCSP and consultees.

Please let me know if you have any questions in relation to this letter or my understanding of the status of the planning application 22/05204/FUL at Meldreth level crossing.

Yours sincerely

Elliot Stamp

Town Planning Manager (Anglia)