

Dear Sir/Madam,

Publication of the Loxwood Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you for your e-mail dated 23rd & 24th October 2014, asking for comments on the Basic Condition Statement and re-submitted of Loxwood Neighbourhood Plan to the Chichester District Council.

SGN have assessed the impact of your proposed future development (Strategic Land Allocations Assessment) for Land at Nursery Site North Hall and Land at Farm Close, South Loxwood. We can conclude that on the whole, SGN have no Gas infrastructure at these Strategic Land Allocation for future development. Our Gas infrastructure is approximately 5km or more away from Loxwood Parish Council.

While information obtained through the provision of Local Authority Development Plans is important to our analysis, it only acts to identify potential development areas. Our principle statutory obligations relevant to the development of our gas network, arise from the Gas Act 1986 (as amended), an extract of which is given below:-

Section 9 (1) and (2) which provides that:

9. General powers and duties

(1) It shall be the duty of a gas transporter as respects each authorised area of his:-
(a) to develop and maintain an efficient and economical pipe-line system for the conveyance of gas; and
(b) subject to paragraph (a) above, to comply, so far as it is economical to do so, with any reasonable request for him -
(i.) to connect to that system, and convey gas by means of that system to, any premises; or
(ii.) to connect to that system a pipe-line system operated by an authorised transporter.

(1A) It shall also be the duty of a gas transporter to facilitate competition in the supply of gas.

(2) It shall also be the duty of a gas transporter to avoid any undue preference or undue discrimination -
(a) in the connection of premises or a pipe-line system operated by an authorised transporter to any pipe-line system operated by him; and in the terms of which he undertakes the conveyance of gas by means of such a system.

We would not, therefore, develop firm extension or reinforcement proposals until we are in receipt of confirmed developer requests.

As SGN is the owner and operator of significant gas infrastructure within the Chichester District Council Plan area and due to the nature of our licence holder obligations;

Should alterations to existing assets be required to allow development to proceed, such alterations will require to be funded by a developer.

Should major alterations or diversions to such infrastructure be required to allow development to proceed, this could have a significant time constraint on development and, as

such, any diversion requirements should be established early in the detailed planning process.

We would, therefore, request, that where the Council are in discussions with developers, via the Local Plan, there early notification requirements are highlighted.

Additionally, SGN are aware of the advances being made in renewable technologies, especially those related to the production of biomethane. Should any developer be proposing to include such technology within their development, then we would highlight the benefits of locating these facilities near existing gas infrastructure.

Again, where the Council are in discussions with developers via the Local Plan, we would hope that these early notifications requirements are highlighted.

We hope that the above information is sufficient for your requirements at present. If, however, you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Regards.

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