

Emma Burle

From: O'Brien, Philip <Philip.O'Brien@sgn.co.uk>
Sent: 19 June 2017 11:51
To: Neighbourhood Planning
Cc: Steel, Kirsty
Subject: Publication of the Westbourne Neighbourhood Plan

Good Morning,

Thank you for your email dated 12/06/2017 requesting comments on certain domestic developments in the Westbourne area, we have supplied information on how this might affect the gas network.

As per the strategic sites outlined in the Local Plan for the area:

"SGN have assessed the impact of your proposed new ~30 dwellings by 2029 and based on the spread of development we can conclude that our gas infrastructure will be minimally affected by the levels of growth proposed."

Having reviewed the proposed domestic dwelling developments only in the *Westbourne Neighbourhood Plan* and identified the relevant sites around Westbourne, we have acknowledged that these developments will have minimal impact on our gas infrastructure in this area and should not require reinforcement.

While information obtained through the provision of Local Authority Development Plans on your Website is important to us, 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 via our formal connections process.

As SGN is the owner and operator of significant gas infrastructure within the Westbourne area and due to the nature of our license holder obligations;

- Should alterations to existing assets be required to allow development to proceed, then the 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, these early notification requirements are highlighted.

Additionally, SGN are aware of the advances being made in renewable technologies, especially those related to the production of bio-methane. 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 notification 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 myself or Kirsty Steel. Alternatively your queries may be directed to department email box - strategicplanning@sgn.co.uk

Many Thanks,

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