



east Suffolk.gov.uk

Your ref

Our ref 18/2018

Date 25 September 2018

Please ask for Hilary Slater

Direct dial 01394 444336

Email hilary.slater@east Suffolk.gov.uk

Mr S Wrinch
Innocence House
Innocence Lane
Kirton
Suffolk IP10 0PJ

Dear Mr Wrinch

Petition Received by Suffolk Coastal District Council

I refer to the petition which was received by the Council on 14 September 2018. You may be aware that the Council has a Petitions Scheme which has been adopted by the Council.

In accordance with that Petitions Scheme, please accept this letter as acknowledgement of the petition which you have stated: *"We, the undersigned, are adamantly opposed to Suffolk Coastal District Council's plan to designate prime agricultural land for development purposes, in the Trimley St Martin and Kirton Parishes. From the evidence base, it is clear the case has not been made for sacrificing greenbelt farming land, which is also the home of numerous animal, bird and insect species – some quite rare. We call on the Council to revise their Local Plan and exclude the land designated for housing in Trimley St Martin, as well as the huge acreage designated for unspecified development making up Innocence Farm."*

Our petitions scheme says, at paragraph 2.14, that "If the petition applies to a planning or licensing application, is a statutory petition (for example requesting a referendum on having an elected mayor), or on a matter where there is already an existing right of appeal, such as Council Tax banding and non-domestic rates, other procedures apply, for example:

- Rateable value for Business Rates
- Council Tax banding
- Licensing applications
- Planning or enforcement appeals

"Planning" encompasses matters to do with the Local Plan, which is the framework used by the Council to determine how the area should be developed. The framework comprises a number of local planning documents which are the starting point when making decisions on planning applications. The Local Plan is being reviewed currently by the Council, and the review proposes an allocation of land for development, at Trimley St Martin, as identified in the petition. If the allocation is approved, and is included in the Local Plan, applications for

Suffolk Coastal District Council East Suffolk House, Riduna Park, Station Road, Melton, Woodbridge, IP12 1RT
Tel: 01394 383789 DX 41400 Woodbridge



twitter.com/eastsuffolk



facebook.com/eastsuffolkcouncils



East Suffolk Councils



East Suffolk Channel

planning permission will be required thereafter. Any such planning applications will be the subject of the usual, formal planning process, with statutory consultations being required and undertaken.

Therefore, other procedures apply to the subject of this petition.

Also, under the now revoked Local Authorities (Petitions) Order 2010, any planning matter or any decision in relation to the preparation, revision or adoption of a development plan was an excluded matter and so could not be the subject of a petition. The Council's petitions scheme was based on the statutory scheme. Other petitions, received previously by the Council, relating to Local Plan issues, have been rejected, because they are about planning matters, and are therefore, excluded under the Council's petitions scheme.

Therefore, and for the reasons set out above, this petition is an excluded matter and is not covered by the Council's petitions scheme.

Please note that the details of the petition will be referred to on our website. This can be viewed at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk and entering the word 'petitions' in the search bar.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



 Hilary Slater
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

From: klg@innocence.uk.com
Sent: 28 September 2018 09:54
To: 'hilary.slater@eastsoffolk.gov.uk'
Cc: Becca Atherstone (becca.atherstone@btinternet.com); Gerry Bremner (gerrybremner@tiscali.co.uk); Iain Irvine (iain.irvine1@btinternet.com); Jane McCarthy (je.mccarthy@btinternet.com); Jo Perry; Karen Cade (karencade@gmail.com); 'Ryan Osborne (Ryan.osborne82@gmail.com)'
Subject: Your Letter (18/2018) To S Wrinch, dated 25th September, 2018

Dear Ms Slater,

Quite by chance, I recovered your letter from the doormat when I went to welcome members of the Kirton and Trimley Land Grab Steering Group for a meeting. This meant we spent the first fifteen minutes of the meeting trying to agree what the letter was actually saying! In the event, we decided you were telling us the SCDC does not accept petitions on Local Plan proposals until after a decision has been made. However, it is possible, subsequently, to raise a petition about a specific planning application once the policy has been set. Is our understanding correct? – If so, then it is self-evident local democracy does not count for much! This said, I will publish your letter and my reply in order to maintain a balance on our web site and Facebook page.

Not that it makes a great deal of difference to anything. We feel sure the Planning Committee will be aware by now that 978 people saw fit to sign the petition within a 36-hour period, which must tell them something about a large and angry Community, that is fully behind the objectives of our campaign; not only that, but it is a community whose number is expanding daily. If we have achieved "Councillor awareness", then the Petition has served its purpose already.

The Planning Department can, of course, take shelter behind a bureaucratic balustrade and deceive themselves into thinking they are not faced with a big issue here; however, that would be a mistaken judgement. We are perfectly prepared to commission a firm, of equal standing to Lichfields, who will be asked to examine the quality of the evidence base and, in particular, the conclusions drawn and the methods employed to reach them. Also we will shortly be taking Counsel's advice on many other issues. We are extremely serious about getting several planning proposals, associated with Trimley St Martins, removed from the Local Plan.

Kind regards,

Stephen Wrinch