

Frances Summers

From: Cowie, Michael <Michael.Cowie@sgn.co.uk>
Sent: 21 November 2018 13:00
To: Frances Summers
Subject: Comments on Regulation 16 consultation on Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Thank you for your email asking for comments on the Neighbourhood Plan for Bere Regis.

SGN have assessed the impact of your proposed future developments (Bere Regis Neighbourhood Development Plan) for the period of 2019-2034. The scale of potential development on the proposed sites, should they remain at the currently proposed scales, may provide some issues as in this region the network is sensitive. It is therefore likely that network reinforcement will be required to support the connection of these sites. Where possible, please keep us updated regarding the progress of this site so we can plan any reinforcement accordingly. This analysis has been based on the site area and assumed number of dwellings rather than any firm gas usage.

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 Purbeck 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 being funded by a developer. Should major alterations or diversions to such infrastructure be required to allow development to proceed, requirements should be established early in the detailed planning process as works could have a significant time constraint on development. We would, therefore, request, that where the Council are in discussions with developers, via the Local Plan, early notification requirements are highlighted.

Additionally, SGN is 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 meets your requirements at present. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind Regards,

Michael Cowie
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South Strategy, Network Planning

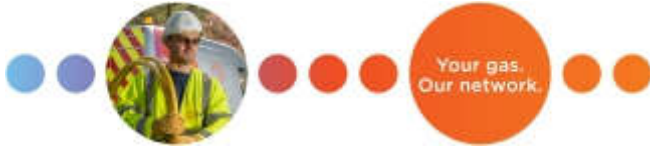
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