

THE HIGHWAYS ENGLAND (A249 Trunk Road Stockbury Roundabout Improvements)(Side Roads) Order 2019

THE HIGHWAYS ENGLAND (A249 Trunk Road Stockbury Roundabout Improvements) Compulsory Purchase Order 2019

The A249 Trunk Road (Stockbury Roundabout Improvements) Order 20[]

APPLICATION BY Highways England

PRE-INQUIRY MEETING

Tuesday 29 September 2020 @ 1000 hours via Microsoft Teams platform

AGENDA

1. **Inspector's Introductions and Opening Points:** Including points of clarification. The parties should note that following the Pre-Inquiry meeting the Inspector will issue a note recording the events of the meeting and a set of directions setting out a timetable for the provision of all evidence and other documentation as required. A draft programme will be provided by the Inspector to the parties no later than one week before the commencement of the Inquiry.
2. **Identity of the various parties to the Inquiry:** main participants and others wishing to appear at the Inquiry
3. **Main Issues/topics to be addressed:** for discussion:
 - **Side roads order:** Highways (Church Hill junction, Oad Street and private accesses)
 - **CPO:** statutory tests: necessary resources, requirement for all land sought, compelling case in the public interest and adequacy of options consultation
 - **Line Order:** highway safety, effect on local economy, character and appearance, adequacy of ES, effect on agriculture, living conditions and ecology and biodiversity (including air quality)
4. **Statements of Common Ground/Areas of Disagreement:** format, topics and submission dates.
5. **Procedure at the Inquiry:** The Inspector's preliminary view is that there will be need to consider the most appropriate mechanism for testing the evidence having regard to the current constraints and difficulties given the situation with regard to Covid-19 and the possibility of changing government guidance before the Inquiry opens.

The starting position is that the Inquiry will largely be a virtual event hosted by PINs on the Microsoft Teams platform. However, the Inspector is aware of the difficulties of some statutory objectors, and others, in engaging with the Teams platform. It is hoped that some provision can be made to facilitate 1 or 2 days of the Inquiry being held as a hybrid event with the Inspector and such objectors appearing in person at a Covid-Secure venue and with other participants on Teams.

The main issues/ topics can be examined in different ways: firstly by exchange of written questions and answers (published in full on the Inquiry website)- Inspector to set out a list of specific questions directed to specified parties by, say 12 October, responses from the parties by, say 26 October, other comments by 2 November- for example).

Other evidence can be tested in roundtable sessions- the parties are asked to give some thought about which topics may be suitable for this format. Finally, other evidence will have to be tested by cross-examination.

6. Arrangements for the Inquiry

- Dates and sitting times
- Venue and accommodation arrangements (provisional)

7. Nature and Format of Evidence: to include consideration of the following.

- Identification of the topics to be addressed- see above.
- Names of witnesses to provide evidence against topic areas.
- An assessment as to how the evidence relating to various topics is to be most appropriately tested, namely by written submissions, roundtable discussions or cross-examination.
- Inquiry programming and consideration as to whether it should be topic based or otherwise.
- A timetable for submission of all documents to include: SCG, proofs, core documents, rebuttals etc
- Format of proofs: summary proofs, pagination, separately bound appendices, reading lists.

8. Listing, numbering and Availability of Documents

9. Library of Core Documents and Inquiry website

9. Other Procedural and Administrative matters

Karen L Ridge

Inspector