

Contact Report

Client National Grid
Project Hackney 400
Meeting Date Wednesday 30 September 2009 7:25pm – 9.30pm
Location Hackney Town Hall
Attendees Chair Cllr Ian Rathbone (Chair) – LB Hackney
Cllr Linda Kelly – LB Hackney
Cllr Saleem Siddiqui – LB Hackney
Brian Weller, Secretary Millfields Park User Group
Wendy Reid – Resident Hillstowe St
Ann Clifford – Resident Hillstowe St
Rokos Frangos – Planning, LB Hackney
Steve Walker- Highways, LB Hackney
Bruce Irving – Greenspaces, LB Hackney
Robert Camlin – Masterplan for Millfields Park
James Turley – Scott Wilson
Andrew Weight – Scott Wilson
Martin Kinsey – Senior Project Manager, National Grid
Dave Carson – Project Manager, National Grid (South East Electricity Substation Alliance)
Sarah Harris – Corporate Affairs, National Grid
Phil Humby – Planning, National Grid
Cally Southern – 3G Communications Ltd
Bilquis Mahmood – 3G Communications Ltd

Apologies:

Cllr Sharon Patrick - LB Hackney
Cllr Julias Nkafu - LB Hackney
Liam O'Sullivan, Project Manager - EDF Energy

Copies:

As above plus:
Mike Elmer - National Grid
Dave Palser - National Grid
Mat Ray - National Grid



| 1. Introduction and apologies | | |
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| | <p>Agenda and previous access route options meeting minutes (18/6/09) were circulated.</p> <p>Cllr Rathbone began the meeting by summarising that some residents had decided not to attend this meeting and were choosing to liaise with National Grid through the Centre for Justice. We need to see the issue as two parts, the past and the future and this meeting is about future access route options. National Grid's UK Construction Director met with Cllr Rathbone and responded to a letter from one of the residents about the current access issues in Hillstowe Street. He confirmed that he has made some senior appointments to the National Grid team and is committed to working with residents to see if there is a feasible alternative access route to the substation.</p> <p>Residents present at the meeting confirmed that they wished to represent themselves and would speak to National Grid directly, not through the Centre for Justice.</p> <p><i>Post meeting note: Advised by Ms Clifford that all residents of Hillstowe Street are united in seeking a change to the access route.</i></p> | |
| 2. Purpose of the meeting | | |
| | To review and discuss access route options for Hackney substation. | |
| 3. Minutes from previous meeting 18 June 2009 | | |
| | Section 7.5 - S Walker confirmed that he had offered to provide an automatic speed indicator counter within the road, but not pay for it. | |
| 4. Access route options | | |
| | <p>Introduction and presentation by M Kinsey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hackney substation is an operational site and National Grid has completed three years of a ten year phased programme to develop its substation in order to meet energy demand. Highest levels of traffic are now behind us. However, to minimise impact National Grid has appointed traffic specialists, Scott Wilson, to professionally assess possible access route options to site. They are also seeking to find an immediate temporary access route solution to alleviate the impact. Current works on the new substation are due to finish by the end of 2010 and the London Tunnels project will take place in phases between 2010 and 2016. <p>Future works</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future works at site include upgrading the existing overhead line between Hackney and Tottenham at some stage during the next seven years which is required to meet future energy demand. The project is still being designed but once it is sanctioned by National Grid more details will be available. There is also a need to change the transformers on site which will involve removing four from the substation and delivering two new ones to site. The development team are looking carefully at options to minimise the impact of transformer movements. <p>Traffic management – immediate actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following feedback from residents, National Grid had made adjustments | |

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| | <p>to the barrier arrangement at the entrance to the park, which begun on a trial basis from 29 Sept. Some residents felt the new arrangement worked extremely well as there is less noise and no back up of traffic. Other residents have expressed concern regarding some traffic speeding towards the first barrier which is now open. M Kinsey confirmed that all feedback has been taken on board and National Grid will continue to talk to the residents to understand their views.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In response to queries about traffic speed, National Grid acknowledged that one of the main issues was managing multiple sub contractors. D Carson confirmed that National Grid will continue to forge long term relationships with suppliers and sub contractors which will help to alleviate this issue going forward. • S Walker confirmed that LBH did not have powers to enforce a speed limit under 20mph in Hillstowe Street. However, from independent speed checks taken between 11-17 September, the majority of vehicles were travelling at less than 20mph. Traffic volume data was not as robust and will need to be carried out again. Speed humps were discounted by LBH due to noise. LBH would check whether an illuminated speed sign could be located on a lamp within Hillstowe St and whether larger 10mph site signage should be installed. • S Walker confirmed that the only people who are permitted to manage traffic on the highway are the police therefore, it is not an option for National Grid to employ a banksman on Hillstowe St. • S Walker reconfirmed that Hillstowe St is suitable for construction traffic. M Kinsey reported that on completion of the substation works, the road will be left in a condition equal or better than it was at the start of the project. • S Walker to obtain traffic flow figures for Millfields Road. <p>Traffic management – short term actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Grid is working with EDF Energy Networks to assess whether it can use their site as an access route (this was impossible until now due to EDF's own development taking place on site). This will provide a temporary alternative access and will help to reduce traffic on Hillstowe St. • Cllr Siddiqui and Cllr Kelly raised concerns about the impact on Millfield Road and associated public services. However as traffic for EDF Energy Network's project has reduced, there would be minimal traffic increase if this access is used and Scott Wilson agreed to provide % increase figures regarding traffic on Millfield Road. • <i>Post meeting note: National Grid met with ward Cllrs on 13 and 14 Oct to discuss this option further. Cllr Rathbone to report back.</i> | <p>SW</p> <p>SW</p> <p>MK</p> <p>JT</p> <p>Cllr Rathbone</p> |
| 4. Scott Wilson's presentation on Traffic Management – Long Term | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J Turley presented initial findings from Scott Wilson's assessment of the ten access route options to Hackney Substation. This included a review of the existing route along Hillstowe St. Copy of presentation attached. • The brief to Scott Wilson was to assess the highway, social and environmental impact of each option and its technical feasibility. Cost was not considered. | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessments were made based on worst case traffic flows during construction. The final report will include site specific traffic figures and would take into account traffic over the next seven years, as well as considering longer term operations and maintenance traffic. J Turley presented the options and stated that it will require further discussion with the community to find a solution. There was some concern about moving the current issues in Hillstowe Street to another road in the area. National Grid will liaise with LBH to determine percentage increase in traffic flows associated with recommended access options. It was suggested that there is no one simple solution and there is a responsibility to share the burden. A combination of options may be a way forward. | JT NG |
| 5. Discussion | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation on the Masterplan for Millfields Park is taking place, information on access route options should be considered as part of this. Confirmation is required on whether temporary access routes across grass to accommodate abnormal loads would be feasible. Simon Bamford confirmed as a key contact at British Waterways. Circulate a copy of the Scott Wilson presentation with the meeting note to attendees. Access route feasibility report to be finalised and circulated in advance of the next meeting. | JT BM JT/BM |
| 6. AOB | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LBH/National Grid were asked to confirm details of the licence agreement for accessing the substation via the park including how these funds are spent by LBH. It was concluded that there shouldn't be a wider debate on options until further discussions have taken place and more information is available. Agenda item for next meeting. Next meeting to discuss access route options to take place early November. | BI/MK Cllr Rathbone |