

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 March 2020 11:34
To: Neighbourhood Planning (MBC)
Subject: Lenham Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 16 Consultation

Good Morning,

Please see my response below to the Lenham Neighbourhood Plan Consultation. The review is concentrated on Lenham Masterplanning Report and the impact that sites 1-7 (1,000 dwellings) have on the gas infrastructure.

NETWORK OVERVIEW

Lenham lies in the middle of two sources supplied from the Local Transmission System (LTS). These two sources in turn feed the Medium Pressure (MP) network that run all the way to the village. The MP then reduces to Low Pressure (LP) where it supplies most of the domestics and smaller non-domestics in the village.

Current pressures on the MP in the area are healthy, when all 1,000 potential homes are applied to our Network Planning model, pressures drop significantly, however they remain above the minimum system pressure, therefore no reinforcement to the MP gas infrastructure is expected to be required.

Reinforcement of the existing LP network may be necessary to support development on this scale, but this is dependant on the final point of connection to SGN's network.

Please note, SGN are unable to book capacity and the above assessment does not guarantee the availability of future capacity which is offered on a 'first come, first served basis'.

STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS

Where required, SGN will look to manage the provision of any off site infrastructure improvements, in line with the overall development growth and / or timescales provided. The full extent of these works will be dependent on the nature and location of the requested load(s), potentially requiring LP reinforcement in addition to that required for the IPMP networks, and will only become clear once a developer's request has been received. Reinforcement solutions are likely to involve the provision of a new pipeline in parallel to SGN's existing mains system, but may also include the installation of above ground apparatus involving land purchase.

As this is a high level assessment and response, the information provided is indicative only and should be use as a guide to assist you on your assessment. While information obtained through consultation and / or engagement on Local 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.

SGN 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 Lenham 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 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.

SGN would therefore request that, where the Council are in discussions with developers via the Local Plan, early notification requirements are highlighted.

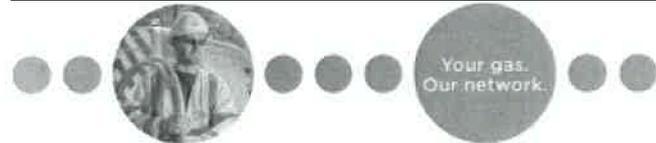
Additionally, SGN are aware of the advances being made in renewable technologies, especially those related to the production of biomethane. Should any developer be proposing to include such technology within their development, then we would highlight the benefits of locating these facilities near existing gas infrastructure. Again, where the Council are in discussions with developers via the Local Plan, we would hope that these early notification requirements are highlighted.

Please let me know if the above information is sufficient for your requirements at present. We would also welcome any future updates to your plans.

Kind regards,

Simon Harkins

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Smell gas? Call 0800 111 999

[Find out how](#) to protect your home from carbon monoxide

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