

Springs Road IGas CLG Report February 2018

On January 4th, IGas submitted a report on the effects of construction on breeding birds in the Misson Springs SSSI to support their request to continue construction into the bird breeding season which began on February 1st. This was not unexpected. As a consultee, MPC had 14 days in which to respond.

We felt that the IGas noise impact report was a poor desk top cut and paste exercise that did not provide any new substantial evidence to support their application. The report also did not use the recommended National Planning Practice Guidance noise measurement. Its conclusion was that the original decision was over-precautionary.

Over 100 public representations were made to NCC in objection to this application and disappointingly NCC, via a delegated decision to planning officers, gave approval to continue until March 31st subject to further restrictions on operating hours and more stringent noise monitoring.

It has become apparent through the monitoring visits made by NCC, that the noise and air quality monitoring since the start of construction has been unsatisfactory. There was a loss of 11 days of noise data due to an incorrectly positioned solar battery and no personnel had been monitoring this. This monitor had been situated in the SSSI. IGas has been slow in producing results and communicating them to the CLG.

There have been complaints from residents about noise levels which have been logged but in many cases these are unavoidable because of the multiple convoys of HGVs accessing and egressing the site each day. IGas staff are aware of this and have monitored the situation.

I have received a report of a house sale being lost due to the presence of the IGas site and am aware of difficulties encountered by other Springs residents when trying to sell their property.

Air quality monitors on the SSSI were also being reported as vandalised or damaged by livestock. IGas noted this as a potential problem and stated that they would avoid areas where the long horn cattle were grazing as well as consult closely with NWT staff about the location of the cattle. However, the monitors were sited in areas containing livestock and without any protection from the cattle against the advice of the Reserve Officer who had been present at the time. This resulted in the damage of the data collection tubes and the total loss of data from two of the tree monitors.

Noise and air quality monitoring are key parts of the planning permission and conditions imposed. As IGas has not demonstrated that they can do this reliably and the community cannot have confidence that this process is being carried out rigorously, openly and effectively.

There has been one further breach of the Section 106 in terms of the traffic routing.

Nottinghamshire Police has been present in considerable numbers along the Springs Road outside the site. Many people felt the response was disproportionate in that the numbers of officers were excessive when compared to the number of protestors.

There are a number of people regularly outside the Springs Road site and slow walking of the HGVs takes place each day.

A Misson Springs Protection Camp has been set up in a privately owned field in the Springs. This is a civil matter between the land owner and the people occupying the land. If the land owner wishes to move the camp, he/she must take legal action. The Parish Council has no powers in this matter.