

From: Councillor Denise Carlo
Norwich Green Party City Group
Norwich City Hall NR2 1NH

24 January 2020

To: Ms Leanne Palmer
Major Casework
Planning Inspectorate 3 / J, TQH,
2 The Square, Bristol, BS1 6PN

By email to: LEANNE.PALMER@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Ms Palmer,

Re. Anglia Square, Norwich NR3 1DZ

Planning Inspectorate Ref: APP/G2625/V/19/3225505

Norwich Green Party City Group of Councillors oppose the proposed development at Anglia Square. We have registered our interest in speaking at the planning inquiry as an Interested Party. Our grounds for objection fall under the following headings:

- Affordable Housing (Supply of Homes - Matter a)
- Vitality of town centres (matter c) and community
- Conserving and enhancing the historic environment (Matter d)
- Air Quality
- Parking
- Open Spaces and Green Infrastructure
- Climate Change and Energy

Three people have drafted the Green Party statements and we would welcome the opportunity to speak at the inquiry. We are:

- Martin Schmierer city councillor represents the local area (Mancroft ward) and is leader of the Green Party city group. He has submitted a separate statement on local matters.

Dr Andrew Boswell, who has submitted statements on affordable housing and climate change/energy.

Myself, Denise Carlo, Green Party councillor for Nelson ward and former group leader when the application came to Planning Committee on 6/12/19.. I am submitting the following statements alongside this letter:

- Overview of our position for reading out at the inquiry. As well as a general statement, I have written the sections on the historic environment, parking and open spaces/biodiversity.
- Note on the Historical Development of Norwich Within the City Walls and Norwich 'Over the Water'. (written by myself - Appendix 1)
- In hard copy only (to be given in at the opening day of the inquiry), a number of plans showing the evolution of the growth of Norwich. (Appendix 2)

Information on our background qualifications is included within our individual statements.

Norwich Green Party City Group's Involvement in the Proposed Development

Green Party councillors were first elected to Norwich City Council in 2002. We have held seats in Mancroft ward which covers the city centre and Anglia Square site since 2007. We are the official opposition group on the City Council and have been for over a decade. Our city group currently comprises nine councillors.

In relation to the proposed development, Mancroft ward Green Party councillors have fully participated in the community consultation events hosted by the applicant. Green Party councillors on the planning applications committee attended the applicant's presentation on the proposed development. Our Mancroft councillors have canvassed extensively the views of local residents and local business. They have worked with the various community groups who oppose the present development and attended all their events. They have reported back to the City Group and our group of nine councillors. We have publicised information about the proposed development in our ward newsletters and city-wide newsletters.

Green councillors voted against the City Council proposal to allow exemptions against Community Infrastructure Levy in exceptional circumstances as it was clear that Anglia Square was being considered as a possibility.

Councillor Martin Schmierer, one of the three Green Party councillors for Mancroft ward where Anglia Square is located, submitted an objection to the planning application during public consultation on the submitted planning application in March 2018.

At the Planning Applications Committee on 6 December 2018 where the application was considered, the Green Party member voted against the scheme. Councillor Schmierer addressed the committee in his councillor role and made clear his objections.

The planning agenda papers did not record Councillor Schmierer as an objector in the list of representations made. The City Council planning officer has confirmed that this was the case but said that his views were taken account of and responded to in the committee report. The planning team has agreed to record all councillor representations received in planning committee reports in future.

On 18 January this year, the Leader of the Green Party Group (myself at the time) wrote to the Secretary of State to request a call-in of the planning application.

We hope that the above matters are in order and we look forward to speaking at the public inquiry and at the Inspector's discretion, asking questions.

Yours sincerely,

Denise Carlo

on behalf of the Norwich Green Party City Council Group