



Scampton Parish Council

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THE EXCLUSION OF SCAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL FROM THE HOME OFFICE MULTI AGENCY FORUMS AND NOTIFICATION OF A SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT ORDER APPLICATION.

1. Following the submission of the Scampton Parish Council (SPC) letter to the Prime Minister and the Home Office (HO), highlighting the risks and impact of the HO planned use of RAF Scampton¹, SPC have received the following 2 communications from the HO:

Communications and Engagement Lead Large Sites Accommodation Programme Home Office – 27 Oct 23

I am writing to update you on engagement between the Home Office and Scampton Parish Council. A decision has been made to arrange a monthly call between Home Office colleagues and Scampton Parish Council representatives to ensure you are kept informed of key information and news. This monthly meeting will replace the need for representation on the Scampton subgroup meetings from the Scampton Parish Council.

Deputy Director for Strategic Communications, Marketing and Insight Asylum Support, Resettlement and Accommodation Home Office – 27 Oct 23

Thank you for the continued constructive engagement between yourself and the Home Office. It bears repeating that the Home Office remains focussed on delivering the Scampton site in a manner which imposes the smallest impact on the local community. That is why we have committed a tailored financial package to the local council and continue to work closely with you and key local stakeholders to mitigate any emerging impacts. We have always been clear that we would stand up the site in this initial period using emergency Class Q Permitted Development Rights, while we consider both longer term needs and the potential to secure ongoing planning permission. I am therefore writing to inform you that we intend to seek this further permission, via a Special Development Order (SDO), for a duration of three years. As we have been clear throughout, we remain absolutely committed to protecting and enhancing the heritage assets and working with key stakeholders to facilitate their vision for the site. This will ensure that the Home Secretary can continue to fulfil her statutory obligations to accommodate the large number of asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute in a manner which reduces the use of inappropriate hotels. Should you wish to speak about this further, we would be happy to meet at your earliest convenience. In the meantime, we will not be making any proactive public comment on the SDO.

2. This latest development is totally unacceptable and the exclusion of SPC from the Multi Agency Forum (MAF) is contrary to the very reason for establishing the MAFs, especially the Communication and Community Engagement MAF. Given that it is in their title, one would have hoped that the Deputy Director for Strategic Communications and the Communications and Engagement Lead for the HO would understand the requirement for robust and open communication with the community and other key stakeholders.

¹ THE RISKS AND IMPACT OF THE HOME OFFICE'S PLANNED USE OF RAF SCAMPTON, 10 Oct 23

3. The reason these groups are called MAFs is so that, in a **Forum**, the concerns of all key stakeholders, including SPC, can be heard by all, thus preventing a HO led one way flow of information with no meaningful discussion. The statement that the HO will “*continue to work closely with you and key local stakeholders to mitigate any emerging impacts*” is clearly not the case.
4. The Deputy Director for Strategic Communications clearly states that the tailored financial package **will mitigate** any emerging impacts on the community. For the reasons clearly set out in the original SPC letter to the Prime Minister and the HO, the impact and risks associated with the HO plan have not been fully assessed and the current financial package will provide no meaningful mitigation to the risks that the HO plan places on the local community.
5. The Deputy Director for Strategic Communications states that the HO remains absolutely committed to working with key stakeholders to facilitate their vision for the site; however, Scampton Holdings have stated that the proposed investment plans are incompatible with the HO proposals. Additionally, the HO have previously stated that they will not maintain the runway and airfield infrastructure. Given the statement that the HO would be applying for an SDO for 3 years, unless the airfield infrastructure and runway are maintained, they will rapidly fall beyond economic financial repair.
6. The Deputy Director for Strategic Communications states that the Home Secretary has statutory obligations to accommodate the large number of asylum seekers. SPC believe that the HO is contravening the Illegal Migration Bill which states that the migrants must be detained and the Home Secretary needs to fulfil her statutory obligation to detain illegal immigrants; by not doing so, she places the local community at significant risk.

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