

Wormington Parish Meeting Minutes

7 pm Monday 13rd March 2026 at St Katharine Church, Wormington.

Present: Neil Piercy (Chairman); Simon Browning (Clerk); Councillor Cheryl Agg; plus 21 residents

Apologies: T & MR, RD, CF, PD, CP, MR, JR.

This was an emergency meeting to discuss the National Gas Planning Application 26/00179/FUL:

National Gas Planning Application: The Chairman thanked everyone for coming to this meeting at short notice and welcomed visitors from Aston Sommerville. There are 37 documents pertaining to the application with over 500 pages, but three are the most important ones:-

Planning, Design & Access Statement
LVIA (Landscape, Visual Impact) Report
Transport Statement

There are four main areas of concern:-

- i) The size of the building – 25m high (including the stack); this is higher than Broadway Tower; 35m long & 31m wide. This could represent the largest commercial building in Gloucestershire, even bigger than the Javelin recycling plant near the M5.
- ii) Traffic Management
- iii) Landscaping
- iv) Noise & Light

- **National Importance** - We recognise the National Gas development is of strategic importance and we are not objecting to the initiative. Our concerns relate to specific details of the project or its implementation.
- **Size of the building** – although we fully support the need to enclose the compressor to contain light and noise pollution. We are concerned that the excessive size of the building and the effect that has on the surrounding environment. We believe that additional measures should be taken to reduce its size. At present we believe the building will be the largest commercial building in Gloucestershire, positioned in an area that is overlooked by an AONB. Questions such as burying part of the building, the positioning of a crane and the internal design of the building were discussed.
- **Landscaping** – very little detail is provided on the screening, which we requested at the exhibition day. We require specific details of what and where the screening is going to be installed and the height of the trees has to be mature. We do not want a repeat of last time when we had to fight for mature screening of the plant from the

village and neighbouring areas. The residents of Aston Somerville will see the building as no screening is planned north of the site.

- **Noise and Light Pollution** – This remains an area of concern to the village both during construction and once the new compressor is commissioned. We believe Planning need to apply specific conditions that address these concerns. It was noted that in the past the noise monitoring by NG was conducted in quiet times and was not representative. Similarly with lights – there are no street lights in Wormington and we should adopt a Dark Sky Policy. Will there be lights on top of the building?
- **Transport** – this topic alone took up most of the discussion. There are four designated routes into the site – which converge into Meadow Lane either
 - a) under the GWR Bridge which has a height limit of 13ft 3inch and has a blind spot. This is designated as the main route
 - b) the narrow road from the A46 through Aston Sommerville to be used by vehicles that are too large to get under the GWR Bridge
 - c) the route through Wormington Village (over the Grade II listed bridge) which is referenced as to be used only by exception

Issues - Route through Wormington Village is the greatest concern to us and in previous projects was used frequently by contactors, we had issues with speeding traffic. How will this be monitored and compliance with their plan be enforced? We need to ask the Highways department for the results of the survey on the listed 1886 bridge over the river Isbourne and whether a weight limit needs to be imposed?

The Transport Management statement mentions over 35,000 traffic movements in Qtr1 2027 as the peak which will all converge onto Meadow Lane, during the course of the 3 year construction project significant volumes of HGVs, Cement Lorries and other contractors vehicles will enter Meadow Lane. There are no proper passing places on Meadow Lane and not big enough for two HGV lorries to pass each other? The state of the road needs improving before any construction begins. National Gas need to be responsible for repairing the verges. The route from Aston Sommerville is single lane in places and bringing the biggest HGV's will cause significant disruption.

It was suggested that temporary traffic lights should be put in place at the GWR Bridge in meadow Lane, temporary speed restrictions of 30mph are in place on Meadow Lane and speed cameras installed on both ends of Meadow Lane and in Wormington Village.

National Gas need to appoint a contact person on site for any emergency issues regarding traffic.

We have requested traffic sentries on Meadow Lane to control the flow of traffic.

It means that for 3 years local business and camp sites will be disrupted and it is recommended to request compensation for lost business (camping sites for example). Horse owners will be prevented from using Meadow Lane which they have done for years. We recently had an incident when a dust cart spooked a horse into the ditch.

Recently an artic lorry got stuck on the corner near Glebe House and this is the main route proposed by National Gas for their heavy HGV's?

GWR has heritage assets and Councillor Agg will inform them of this application. Also need to look at vibrations to Listed buildings in particular through the additional HGV lorries traffic.

- **Neighbouring Villages** - The Clerk was tasked to inform fellow clerks at Buckland and Laverton Parish Council and Hinton and Aston Somerville Parish Council.

The Clerk has already informed Cotswold Natural Landscape and they will be submitting their concerns.

- **Responding to the National Gas Planning Application** - It is important to get as many individuals as possible to respond to the planning application (as Tewkesbury Borough Council will take notice of a large number of objections) via the Tewkesbury Borough Council Planning Portal and enter the reference 26/00179/FUL and comment as an individual and object to the application stating your reasons why you object (you can use some of the issues raised above). **All comments/objections must be completed on the TBC's planning portal by 30th March.**

Next Meeting: AGM - TBA 7pm St Katharine Church.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm.