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Anna Soubry MP

working hard for Broxtowe

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E-newsletter | January 6 2014

Hello again,

I met Eric Pickles this afternoon and requested he “call in” Notts County Council’s decision to allow open cast coal mining near Trowell.

It was a very positive meeting – Eric had already read my letter sent before Christmas (which is on my web site annasoubry.org.uk). I made further representations as to why there should be a Public Inquiry, notably the failure by the County Council to carry out a Health Impact Assessment (I am grateful to Steve Leary of LAON for alerting me to this).

I showed Eric the planned route of 112 HGV lorry journeys each day for almost five years, to take enough coal to burn for a mere 16 weeks at Ratcliffe on Soar Power Station.

The route up to Nuthall roundabout is already hugely over congested and it is difficult to see how the roads can cope with this 112 HGV trips a day. At the request of local County Councillor Philip Owen, I raised his suggestion that these lorries could better access the M1 via Trowell Services.

I also raised my own observation that coal going to Ratcliffe Power Station is transported by rail and this was a better alternative to using lorries and roads. However, rather than concentrating on looking at how we can cope with this open cast coal mine, I made it clear local residents and I were totally opposed to the plans. I explained local people in particular believe their concerns were ignored and the entire application has not been properly scrutinised and fully debated by the current administration at Notts County Council.

Eric Pickles has already agreed to halt the plans and extend the time period needed to decide whether to “call in” the decision. The Secretary of State must keep an open

and independent mind. Eric assured me he will consider my request carefully and should make a decision by the end of next month.

If Eric Pickles “calls in” the decision there will be a Public Inquiry which will take up most of this year. The Secretary of State will then make any final decision.

As ever,
Anna

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