Dear Mr Collins

I refer to your email below, which has been passed to me for reply.

I think there are several things you might like to consider:

• The Inspector was placed in a position where he had to note your very late submission criticising our HIF Bid design work for M25. He clearly did so on the basis that it would be deposited as an Examination Document and the Council would, as is normal, have a right of reply (clearly essential in the circumstances; when you are attempting to question the work of a professional consultancy on a project where you have no reason to be involved)

• The Inspector also initiated an Inspector led consultation on your late submission; open to other interested third parties who had not seen your material. He did not ask for further submissions from you.

• There is no further round of comment involved. You have already seen the Council’s design work summary as part of our Local Plan evidence and there is no reason for you to say anything further; all concerned can see your views as set out in the late submission.

• On that basis it is very surprising that you are now choosing to undertake your own topographical survey – and we are even more surprised that you can achieve what is needed in a single evening and with the necessary authorisations. We question whether the work you do will be fit for the purpose you seem to have.

• You suggest a Statement of Common Ground. The only peripheral relevance in that would appear to be a need for your highway consultant to make, (now very late in the day), courtesy contact with DHA to understand and agree the nature of survey work needed for a project of this kind. I would also expect them to agree that the work already undertaken is to industry standard and confirms all the
necessary measurements. On that basis you could do a SoCG with them, that the topographical survey is correct.

• In passing, we note with concern, that you have commissioned WSP to undertake this work. WSP are already working for SCC and TDC on the HIF Bid and thus the company as an entity has access to a considerable amount of background information on the Bid and is in contact with the DHA team in our regular progress discussions. This is not ideal in circumstances where you appear to be instructing the same company to attack the HIF Bid technical studies. For that reason we are keeping our WSP contact informed and asking him to raise internally, as this position is highly undesirable from a reputational perspective for both the clients and WSP.

You can see that we do not really understand the need to ‘map out a way forward’. That would only become relevant if you can prove that DHA’s survey is in error.

Regards

John
Dear Marie, Sarah, Roger

I am writing on behalf of Thakeham Homes.

I appreciate that you will be busy with the Local Plan Examination. Owing to the events of last Tuesday re: South Godstone day, we are keen to map out a way forward.

As we know, the Inspector has invited comments on our evidence re: M25 Junction 6, and hence also your evidence for this Friday 6th December. We may want to make further comment on this date.

We understand that you have undertaken a topographical survey of M25 Junction 6. Our consultants WSP are also going to undertake a full survey this evening. I apologise for the short notice, however time is tight and the arrangements have only just been confirmed.

Once the further submissions are made this Friday, we would be open to discuss any matters of common ground ahead of any published next steps from the Inspector.

I will ask WSP to forward this email to Surrey County Council and Highways England.

Regards,

Charlie

Charles Collins
Director
Savills Planning