

Northeye Update  
Nigel Jacklin 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023

No further announcement has been made by the Home Office regarding the decision to use Northeye to house 1200 male asylum seekers. On this basis my assumption is that it still a 'proposal' and that the land remains in the ownership of the private investment company who bought it in August last year.

Whilst work has started on the two other sites (RAF Scampton and RAF Wethersfield) neither are going to plan. Use of the Bibby Stockholm has proved problematic too. Today the Home Office will be holding meetings with residents in the immediate vicinity of the Scampton camp. These are taking place after work has started.

The need for the site depends on the continued arrival of asylum seekers. Arrivals of boats have continued over the summer at least one arriving in Rye. Processing of claims remains slow.

The use of the site depends on a value for money comparison with hotels. The value for money depends on the cost of setting up the site and the number of years in use. A leaked March document suggested Northeye would be used for 5 or more years. The Home Office continue to pay more for hotels than a typical local coach tour operator.

The Braintree (RAF Wethersfield) Judicial Review is due to start on October 31<sup>st</sup>. West Lindsey (RAF Scampton) are involved. Both district Councils are opposing the camps and funding the JR.

At this point Rother DC have yet to discuss the camp at Full Council or Cabinet. A petition asking them to oppose the camp has reached 1,100 signatures. 1,500 are needed on or by Monday if this is to be submitted in time for the September 18<sup>th</sup> Cabinet meeting.

I had a lengthy discussion with Marianne Overton, leader of the Independent Network and a Lincolnshire County Councillor. We were both of the view that the use of emergency legislation to over-ride standard local planning and consultation processes was a matter of general concern. We will seek to raise this through the appropriate channels.

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