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Sent: 18 December 2019 23:03
To: A38 Derby Junctions <A38DerbyJunctions@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: Written statement from Open Floor Hearing 10 December

Your reference: A38 Derby Junctions - Written copy of Oral statement given by Alyson Lee on behalf of Extinction Rebellion Derby at Open Floor Hearing 1 – 10th December 2019

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To the Planning Inspectorate,

Thank you for allowing me to speak on behalf of Extinction Rebellion Derby at the Open Floor Hearing on 10th December 2019. Please find below a written representation of the oral statement given at the hearing:-

Before the recognition of the climate and ecological emergency people may have thought that these development plans were a good thing.

But we now know that we drastically need to cut our carbon emissions and focus on public transport and cycling infrastructure and NOT on expanding road infrastructure for more cars and lorries.

Following overwhelming scientific evidence given by the IPCC, the UN Secretary General has stated climate change is no longer a long-term problem. We are confronted now with a global climate crisis. The point of no-return is no longer over the horizon. It is in sight and hurtling towards us.

A Climate and Ecological Emergency has been declared by parliament and Derby City Council. Surely these road works must now be seen as not only illogical and destructive but as a climate and ecological crime.

This huge construction project will cause worse congestion and pollution, a huge carbon footprint, massive disruption to local residents and the loss of some of Derby's large trees and green space. It cannot be allowed to go ahead.

We will be seeking advice from Client Earth regarding legal action if this scheme goes ahead following a Declaration of a Climate and Ecological Emergency.

Having had a chance to inspect the documents presented regarding the Environmental Impact Assessment, we would like to highlight the following:-

- The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) was published in September 2018.
- The publication dates of the local planning policies and EU Directives referenced range from 2006 to 2017.
- The Highways England Environment Strategy was first published in April 2017 and updated in December 2018.

All these publication dates precede the Declaration of a Climate and Ecological Emergency made by Parliament and Derby City Council in May this year. Considering the existential threat to human life, as well as all other species, caused by the Climate and Ecological Emergency, we would strongly suggest that all major projects that are still in the planning stage should be postponed until new policies have been developed that take account of the catastrophic situation the world finds itself in.

Furthermore, In the **Biodiversity section** of **TR010022 Volume 6 6.4 Environmental Statement Non-Technical Summary** it is stated that:

- The construction phase would be the most disruptive period for ecology and nature conservation. Vegetation clearance would remove habitats in the short term before the maturation of new landscape planting, and the exclusion of protected species from the construction works areas would be required. This would cause significant disruption to local habitats and local animal populations in the short term. Construction works would also cause temporary disruption and disturbance at watercourses, with the requirement for in-channel works and increased risk of pollution incidents.

And the summary of the construction phase assessment gives two notable adverse effects of the project:-

- The A38 Roundabout LWS (Local Wildlife Site) would be permanently lost, resulting in a significant adverse effect.
- Significant adverse effect upon semi-natural broadleaved woodland in the short to medium term.

This is totally unacceptable in a world where one of the existential threats to human life is the loss of biodiversity and wildlife – we are in the 6th Mass Extinction event and cannot afford to continue with projects that adversely affect wildlife.

In the **Climate section** of the same report the Summary of construction assessment states

- No significant adverse effects with regard to greenhouse gas emissions.

Considering the government have committed to Net Carbon emissions by 2050 and are nowhere near attaining the levels of reduction required to attain this goal that statement is monumentally wrong! To attain the government's goal for 2050 major changes have to be made in all areas of the economy including transport infrastructure and this has to start now – Highways England must reconsider all of their projects to focus on integrated transport systems which will help the public move away from car use.

Thank you for your kind attention

Yours faithfully

Alyson Lee

Extinction Rebellion Derby