

Church Farm Accommodation
Church Lane
Bickenhill
Solihull
B92 0DN

The Inspector
M42 Junction 6 DCO Hearing
The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

11th October 2019

Dear Sirs,

**Re. Representation of David and Camilla Burton of Church Farm Accommodation,
Church Lane, Bickenhill B92 0DN**

Deadline 6 Submission

We write further to the issue specific hearing on the 1st October (living conditions) We are still opposed to the whole scheme and particularly the siting of the main compound in relation to the village of Bickenhill. We feel that such a huge construction project will be incredibly damaging for our small historic village. The conservation area is supposed to protect the village from development and we are unable to even cut a tree down without applying to the council!! Yet as soon as it is for a national infrastructure project these rules don't seem to apply and we have to accept the desecration of the countryside on our doorstep.

We set up the bed and breakfast business in 1997 because we were a quiet little oasis away from but still close to the airport and NEC and this is our unique selling point. We are not against progress and development because, as a business, we benefit from the increase in people visiting the area. But the proposed road is encroaching far too close to our village, the residents, businesses and historic buildings. We have already endured the airport extension back in 2014 it is extremely unfair to put the residents through further disruption for another 4 years

The main issues we would like addressed, assuming the scheme does go ahead are as follows:

1. The new slip road schemes proposed effectively move our Bed and Breakfast Business further away by increasing the travelling distance by road to the venues that we currently advertise as being less than a mile away. A journey that currently takes 5 minutes is likely to take twice as long and the potential to get stuck in traffic will be greatly increased due to the fact that we will be forced to join the slip road coming from the new Junction 5A off the motorway. A taxi to/from the airport/NEC is currently no more than £6 and this will also increase due to the additional distance travelled once the scheme is completed. It is our close proximity to the airport, NEC, Train station, National Conference centre which makes our Bed and Breakfast attractive to people staying in the area. After the scheme is built, we may need to

reduce our prices to take into account the extra distance people may need to travel or the extra costs of a taxi.

2. The main compound moved away entirely out of the village. I really believe that if we are going to bare the brunt of the upset and disruption of this project being built everything should be done to keep any other disruption to an absolute minimum.
3. If after the previous meetings and reviews, it is deemed that there is no other option than to position the compound in Bickenhill, then we request that it be moved as far away from the residents as possible. We were encouraged to hear at the meeting on the 1st October that Skanska have moved the access of the compound away from behind our property taking it out of the village. We would also like bunding and fencing to be set to the maximum height of 3.6m allowed so that it will less visible and audible for residents. Due to the level of the ground and the elevation of our business, the 2m height proposed will not be sufficient.
4. The compounds operating hours must start no earlier than 8am as earlier will cause huge disruption to ours guests experience and therefore create the potential for negative reviews – which will undo the exemplary reviews we currently have.
5. The current proposed route for the temporary realigned Catherine-de-Barnes Road will mean that the road will be located directly behind our property. We were told at the meeting on the 1st October that the road will take 2-3 months to construct which means we will have to endure the building of this road before the new road starts construction. The plan submitted from Highways shows that this re-routed road will come further into the village, immediately behind our property and this gives no space for any mitigation due to it's proximity to our boundary. Once the road is built there will be two lanes of traffic running 24/7 approximately 60m away from my guest rooms. This will be in use whilst the bridge is being constructed which I have been told by highways will take 9months-1 year! We are struggling to see how our guests will have a good experience staying whilst there is this level of disruption with no bunding other than an acoustic fence which will not be sufficient or very effective for noise of this level. For this reason we need Highways to move this temporary road further away or find an alternative route that does not further disrupt our home and business.
6. The removal of the Attenuation tank located behind my property as this means putting in an access road in an area that is currently does not have one. This has the potential of opening up this area at the back of my property, giving rise to unwanted parking, fly tipping, taxi parking and giving ease of access to our property, increasing the risk of crime and other undesirable activities as previously stated on my representations at deadline 4 and 5. This also adds to the lack of space for mitigating the noise created by construction of the bridge and road.
7. Consideration for our livery yard. We currently graze 4 horses in the paddocks that back onto the proposed construction site and works compound. Horses are very sensitive to any change in their environment and this can distress them immensely, leading them to spook if there is sudden movement or sound. We have serious concerns about running the livery business, let alone the effects on myself and my daughter`s enjoyment when riding in our paddocks and arena.
8. Any new and existing bridleways must be kept open and accessible at all times to allow the livery businesses within Bickenhill to keep trading.

9. We request that any new local road is constructed with consideration for the number of horse riders in Bickenhill. It should be safe for horse riders including around the new Bickenhill roundabout so that we can safely do a circuit from Church Lane, Catherine-de-Barnes Lane back round to St Peters lane. This is something we can do now and we insist that this access is maintained.

Access and Egress to our business during construction was discussed at the Open Hearing on the 1st October. Our concerns are that guests who follow sat nav or the directions on our website to find us which may not be up to date with any local road diversions. Highways said it may be possible to create a link to their website which will notify of the up to date road closures or diversions but this concerns me that they may decide to cancel bookings if it alerts them of a big construction project sited in the area where they are due to be staying. If we notify them ourselves this will be very time consuming and we may not be able to do this until the day of arrival. We would welcome suggestions on how this could be done to minimise the level of disruption for our business.

We firmly believe that there could be aspects of detail where mitigative measures might be incorporated in to the DCO in order to reduce the impact of the scheme, and the proposed site compound, on our property and businesses.

We would still welcome a more inclusive dialogue with Highways England with a view to finding solutions to a number of the principal concerns which have highlighted at every oral hearing and written representation in this planning process to date.

Yours sincerely,

Camilla and David Burton