

From: [REDACTED]
To: [West Midlands Interchange](#)
Subject: WMI Objection Written Representation
Date: 12 March 2019 18:59:59

Dear Mr Singleton,

I write to express my deep concern regarding plans submitted by 'Four Ashes Limited' for a Rail Freight Hub in rural South Staffordshire.

I would like to start by thanking you for your commitment to looking into this matter in a fair and unbiased way. I was not able to attend the hearing at the Molineux in Wolverhampton because of work, but I listened to the tape recordings and felt that you really were listening to the views of the people.

I want you to know I am not a 'NIMBY'; I have spent two years now researching these plans, attending meetings and listening to experts in both industrial and environmental sectors. I am well aware that Rail Freight Hubs, in principle, are better for the environment. (Indeed, when I attended one of the first meetings held by the developers, I posed the question about the effects of the lorry fumes on children in the local area and was told that: admittedly this would 'not be good for the local communities but the rest of the country would benefit.') I have deep concerns that this proposal will not be. My reasons are as follows:

These proposals plan to destroy over 700 Hectares of GREENBELT land. The Government have previously declared that greenbelt land should be 'sacrosanct'; the purpose of greenbelt is to avoid 'urban sprawl' and help to filter pollution by being on the outskirts of built up areas such as Birmingham and Wolverhampton. To build on this would pave the way for more development on greenbelt and eventually leave the country with no greenbelt at all.

As well as being greenbelt, over fifty percent (approx) of this land is currently agricultural. Surely we should be encouraging farming in this country not destroying it?

I feel that the directors of Four Ashes Ltd (one of whom is the landowner) are looking to make big money - money that does not manifest itself in a farmer's pittance rent - and they have therefore devised a plan to allow them permission to build on this land; I am deeply concerned that, in WMI plans, they don't propose to even connect the warehouses to rail until up to eight years after they have been built - and even then, only four of these look to be connected to the rail link at all! This looks to me like a surefire way to degrade the land and make lots of money at the hands of the environment and the people who live in this area.

My biggest reason however, for objecting to these plans is the destruction they will cause to the area as a whole. As a mother and teacher, I care deeply about the legacy we will leave our children and future generations to come. I was grateful that you took the time to visit the area and have a look around. Although it may not look like much from the outside, to many (including wildlife), this area is home. It is a place to escape the vast expanses of warehouses in Wolverhampton, Telford, Birmingham and Stoke on Trent. People live here because they don't want to feel suffocated by concrete. Have you ever felt the inner-peace that the natural world can bring? We don't have much of it left. Please, I implore you: Save it.

Chloe Burns

Sent from my iPhone