



# Proof of Evidence

On behalf of  
Stop the West Midlands Interchange

## 9. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

In respect of the proposed West Midlands  
Interchange



# Strategic Rail Freight Interchange

## Introduction

This evidence has been prepared by a local community group opposed to the West Midlands Interchange at Gailey, Four Ashes and Calf Heath in South Staffordshire. The community group was set up to represent the views of local residents. The group comprises of professional experts and local residents. It also has local political support from Gavin Williamson (South Staffordshire MP) and Jeremy Lefroy (Stafford MP).

'Stop The West Midlands Interchange' currently has over 2500 members from the neighbouring communities that will be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed development, these include the communities of Gailey, Four Ashes, Calf Heath, Hatherton, Penkridge, Brewood & Coven.

We do not propose to repeat the objections made by the professional bodies, local authorities and political leaders we are merely seeking to offer a local perspective and provide our own views on this proposal, which is supported by evidence and professional experts.

This report focuses on the Supporting Information relevant to our Objection to the development at this location.

This report should be read in conjunction with the other reports being prepared by the Group on the following matters:-

- Planning and Green Belt;
- Railway Infrastructure;
- Highways;
- Health
- Environment & ecological issues;
- Tourism / recreational issues;
- Agriculture;
- Location; and
- Answers to the Inspector's Questions.

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## **SUMMARY OF OUR OBJECTIONS**

1. This summary includes in excess of 70 accidents or incidents (from 2016 to 2019) that have affected roads in our local area and where possible has included road closures. These are just local observations and reports.  
Residents' feedback in this report was gathered as a result of concerns from residents about the safety of the A5 and mainly deals with the incapacity of the A5 from Gailey to Weston to be able to accommodate the HGV's. Feedback also discusses concerns with health issues and the speed of vehicles. The report does also show the incapacity of Station Drive which falls within the development area.
2. The Group have highlighted some of the empty warehousing locally bringing into question the need for more warehousing in the area.
3. The last part of this report highlights loss of green belt: Professor Kathryn Moore, architect/Birmingham City University, responded to Michael Gove's invitation for ideas. She blames traditional development practices for long-term social, economic and environmental damage. Arterial roads etc have been built at a cost to communities and aesthetics. Roads created where drivers sit in their private boxes in rush hour gridlock and neglected public spaces where you could walk or sit.  
We have had our attractive green belt for decades, in fact centuries. It holds a lot of local history. Indeed, A5 and sites along it date back to Roman times as well as historical sites in area. But developers want to take it away and make it an industrial eyesore that Moore is trying to move away from. Already local greenbelt is been taken over by housing developments putting overload on our amenities, but West Midlands wants to industrialise our countryside but make cities greenbelt.... can government say where our countryside/leisure areas will then be located.

### Appendices

Traffic accidents' Log.

Resident's feed back.

Empty Units & Warehousing.

Loss of Greenbelt.

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## **REPORT 9 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 Blocked Roads & Accidents Local Information Collated Between 2010 & 2018 including correspondence**

15<sup>th</sup> December 2010 petrol tanker overtaking another HGV at 1am by the lowest reservoir, lost control and ran into a residents (Pool House) garden (the deep ditch saved the house).

23<sup>rd</sup> December 2011 Lorry caught fire and burnt out in the layby (A5 from Gailey to M6 J12. The fire damaged the overhead power cables.

6th October 2016 A girl on a scooter travelling down Watling Street from M6 island was hit by a van turning right out of the quarry access road (quarry worker) through slow moving traffic. No right turn permitted by signage. Girl was knocked across to other side of the road, but a lorry coming the opposite way was able to stop due to the congestion keeping speed low. Gridlock.

12<sup>th</sup> December 2016 M6 blocked 5 to 6 backed up to J10a. Breakdown. Lorry also shed its load blocking 2 lanes.

22<sup>nd</sup> Dec 10.30pm, problems M6, (13 to 12?) A449 heavy with traffic and HGV's are trying to join M6 at Gailey.

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2017 A449 overnight closures for 6 months until June 30<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January accident at Gailey island involving motorbike.

18<sup>th</sup> January 2017 accident M6 J10 to 10A northbound road closed.

19<sup>th</sup> January 2017 6.00pm accident at Whitegate Farm A5 from Gailey. Road closed.

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24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017 accident M6 6.30pm between J12 & J13 blocking 2 lanes.  
Tailbacks to J11. A449 to Gailey queued.

1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2016 am- 10 to 10a Northbound blocked.  
6.00pm 12 to 13 Northbound blocked broken down vehicle.

13<sup>th</sup> Feb 2017

The traffic this evening was horrendous at 5.30pm, station road was backed up to the A5, and I needed to get the little one to swimming lessons for 6. I had to turn round back to calf Heath and through the lanes to Featherstone and to Nuffield at Moseley! Even the straight mile was backed up! Got there just for 6. I know the road works are causing this, but just shows that the roads are already too busy! We cannot cope with any more traffic. This journey normally takes 10-15 minutes

April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2017 – Accident between 12 & 13 M6 Northbound, traffic diverting onto A5. A449 closed completely Wolves bound (Bericote roadworks) A5 a nightmare.

1<sup>st</sup> May 2017 - Motorcyclist dead after collision Weston Under Lizard near to the junction of Chester Road. Congestion.

May WC 15<sup>th</sup> 2017 JM6/M42 lorries crashed MWay closed.

May 24<sup>th</sup> Accident J16/J15 M6 lorry and car 5 killed – driver of lorry arrested for dangerous driving.

Accident J12 M6.

Accident between M6 J10 to J9 – 3 lorries.

May 26<sup>th</sup> Accident A5 at Four Crosses Junction – tanker and small car head on.

May 28<sup>th</sup> M6 Northbound accident between 11 and 12. Delays of 20 mins.

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5<sup>th</sup> June 2017 Lorry fire Weston Under Lizard 2.40pm.

9<sup>th</sup> June 2017 accident between 12 & 13 Northbound.

28<sup>th</sup> June 2017 13 to 12 accident M6. 2,30pm Southbound 16 to 15 M6 closed  
accident investigation works 8.00am.

30<sup>th</sup> June 2017 13 to 12 M6 South lorry and 2 cars inside lane.

1<sup>st</sup> July 2017 M6 northbound accident 10 to 10a.

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017 J5 – 10 M6 gridlocked after 8 car accident.

6<sup>th</sup> July 2017 – accident between 12 & 13 2 lanes closed 11.30 am traffic  
issues all day.

6<sup>th</sup> July 17 – vehicle fire M54 knock on effect as traffic directed off M54 down  
A5 coupled with traffic being directed off M6 at 12 causing A5 congestion.

24<sup>th</sup> July 2017 accident A464 between Shifnal and Albrighton (lorry/motorcycle)  
motorcyclist died from injuries.

Car recovered from embankment between 13 & 12 barrier repairs causing  
delays on A449 and A5 solid.

July 25<sup>th</sup> 2017 accident 10 to 10 a M6 lorry and 2 cars.

Saturday August 5<sup>th</sup> 2017 am. A5 blocked from J12 M6 to Gailey 10 mins to  
get to Croft Lane.

5<sup>th</sup> August 2017 16.00pm to 18.00pm – A5 closed from Bishops Wood to  
Pickmere island. Serious accident 2 cars involved. Traffic being diverted off at  
Bishops Wood and turning right passed Boscobel to get back onto A41. Lanes  
congested.

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24<sup>th</sup> Aug 2017 M6 J10 accident. J13 to J12 M6 blocked.

25<sup>th</sup> Aug 2017 J13 to J15 2 hr delays due to 2 HGV's collision and shed load.

M1 major Newport Pagnall accident **2 lorries**, minibus – 8 killed, 2 lorry drivers arrested for dangerous driving, one arrested for drink driving.

27<sup>th</sup> Aug 2017 M6 North12 to 13 slow/stop due to broken down vehicle.

12<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017 M6 South11 & 10a loads of bricks shed.

15<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017 J12-13 M6 delays. Accident?

19<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017 – 8.am J10 M6 south 3 lorries and a car, 2 hour delays.

Sept 26<sup>th</sup> 2017 12.30 M6 J12 southbound blocked accident.

Oct 4<sup>th</sup> 2017 – A5 from Gailey through Ivetsey Bank 8.00am blocked.

24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2018 - “Absolute chaos on the A5 & A449 accident on M6 & another at Churchbridge. It's market day in Penkridge, gridlocked, hoping all involved are ok. “

**3** accidents in the area today.

1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2018 accident J12 slip road.

2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2018

Multiple vehicle accident Ivetsey Bank. A5 closed both ways. Traffic backing up. Horsebrook Lane junction backed up to Ivetsey bank. Cars all taking lanes, never seen so many down School Lane! Shut from the spread eagle island.

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9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018

3.00pm accident between J12 &13. Traffic bad Essington/Acton Trussell Gailey /Penkridge. Back lanes from Penkridge very busy.

<https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/m6-live-traffic-accident-crash-14269378>

15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018

Evening M6 closed at J13 steady stream of lorries through Penkridge.

3 vehicle accident A41 by Gulf garage. Lunchtime (12.30) one side of road blocked.

23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2018 incident M6 Toll North T7 –T8. A5 Penkridge, Gailey to Stafford blocked.

M6 J12-13, 2 lanes closed –accident.

26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018 7.30am – M6 12-13 stranded lorry blocking 2 lanes and accident further up. Mway closed North and South. Penkridge blocked up to J13. Fatalities. A5 up to Gailey slow.

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018 7.30am accident M6 Southbound J13 to J12. Adverse weather conditions week of bad snow, ice, wind.

Gas mains work on A5 Stretton due to bad weather traffic lights- taking 20-30 mins to get to Gailey in rush hour.

5<sup>th</sup> Mar 2018- M6 J10a to 10 accident- all traffic held. Tail backs.

6<sup>th</sup> Mar 2018 - here was another accident between 12 & 13 earlier, there's slow traffic now due to a broken down vehicle, the A5 is gridlocked from Gailey to 12 and from 12 to the quarry done road works and traffic light

7<sup>th</sup> Mar 2018 – M6 J12 – J10a 8.00 am broken down lorry 1 lane closed.



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M54 also closed J10a to J2.

Traffic lights on A5 between Gailey and J12 due to burst water mains. Chaos.

Mar 27<sup>th</sup> 2018 M6 closed northbound at J14. Traffic tailing back to J12, chaos on A5 and surrounding roads.

J10 broken down lorry lanes blocked.

Mar 30<sup>th</sup> 2018 A449 closed between Gailey and M54 due to car fire.

April 19<sup>th</sup> 2018 11.00pm-12.00am – A5 Ivetsey Bank Closed Utopia on fire.

April 24<sup>th</sup> 2018 8.00am accident at junction Claygates Road. A5 backed up to Ivetsey Bank and Cannock. Broken down vehicle between 12 & 13 M6 North bound.

27<sup>th</sup> April 2018 A5 between Stretton and Weston, 2 lorries in 2 separate incidents broken down and causing queues.

HGV fire early hours on A5 at Turf Island and A460 A5 closed in both directions until mid morning.

2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018 M6 South J13 to J12 5 car accident- one person trapped. All traffic held.

9<sup>th</sup> May 2018 M54 accident car and lorry (6.00pm) queues on A5 through Stretton to Gailey.

12<sup>th</sup> May 2018 – 3 vehicle accident A5 Claygates Road. 10.00am A5 blocked for over an hour. A5 backed up until 5.00-6.00pm.

15<sup>th</sup> May 2018 – accident A5 Weston Park. Car crashed into a tree. Vehicles overtaking on double white lines.

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16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> May – 3 lorries and an elderly couple in a car. Postman's car also crashed into as he stopped to help.

WC 14<sup>th</sup> May Motorcyclist killed?

20<sup>th</sup> May 2018 – Motorcyclist knocked off bike J12 North 10.00pm – 3 lanes closed both sides.

24<sup>th</sup> May 2018 – accident M6 J12 to J12 all traffic stopped to deal with collision.

29<sup>th</sup> May 2018 10.21pm accident M6 North J12 –J13 multivehicle RTC. Delays expected.

June 2018- Weston Under Lizard. Vehicle waiting to turn right into property in double white line vicinity in Weston. Lorry could not stop, swerved around him. A vehicle had stopped when he saw lorry coming towards him, the lorry squeezed through gap but a vehicle went into the back of the vehicle that had to stop.

6<sup>th</sup> June 2018 –Weston Under Lizard. Young girl travelling from Telford lost control of vehicle, bounced off both sides of road. Lorries butting up against residents fences to squeeze by. Only stopped when emergency services turned up.

13<sup>th</sup> June 2018 - There is stop-start traffic due on the southbound carriageway between J13 A449 ([Stafford](#) South) and J12 A5 (Gailey).

All traffic was being held whilst highways and emergency services deal with the accident (serious) but one lane has now re opened. The crash, which took place at around 7.40pm, involves a lorry and a car.

5<sup>th</sup> July 2018 – school coach fire A5 by Huntercoombe Hospital. Traffic slow and queuing Gailey to Telford. Coach burnt out. Resurfacing and road works. Delayed traffic.

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15<sup>th</sup> July 2018 – fatal accident M6 South J14- 13 collision between a lorry and a man. Air ambulance attended.

28<sup>th</sup> July 2018 – A5 closed in both directions between M6 and A4061 Cannock due to serious collision. Emergency services in attendance, traffic being diverted. 23 year old woman in a critical condition. Driver did not stop.

29<sup>th</sup> July 2018 – M6 North 11-12 17.20pm accident vehicle rolled. Traffic stopped

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July 29<sup>th</sup> 2018 – M6 Southbound J13-12. Vehicle shunt – person on mobile texting shunted into back of MR2. Traffic backed up.

August 9<sup>th</sup> 2018 – 2.30am lorry crashed into central reservation, and ended up down the embankment at J13 southbound. Cleared at 9.15am queues 10 miles long.

August 11<sup>th</sup> 2018\_The M6 northbound has severe delays this morning of at least 90 minutes between junctions J14 (Stafford North) and J15 (Stoke-On-Trent), due to an earlier multi-HGV collision incident. All lanes re-opened shortly before 10:45 this morning

August 16<sup>th</sup> 2018 - Accident m6 north where toll meets just before junction 12. Two lorries one merging from toll one already on m6. Collided at the merge.

August 28<sup>th</sup> 2018 - Highways West Midlands is warning of delays southbound at J13 of the M6. One lane is closed due to a collision involving a car and HGV in the road works. Traffic is slow, approaching and passing the scene.

September 30<sup>th</sup> 2018 -J12 to J13 M6 serious accident.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Oct 2018 (Chase News)**

Six-mile detour past A5 road works

Drivers are being confronted by a six-mile diversion caused by road works on the A5.

One lane is now closed on the carriageway just off the M6 southbound, near Junction 12, forcing drivers who wanted to turn right down Vicarage Road to follow the lengthy diversion.

It comes as improvements are being made to the quality of water being discharged into Gailey Reservoir from the highway drainage system.

The lane was closed from Monday and will not be open again until the work is finished, which is set to be in December.

Oct 15<sup>th</sup> 2018 - Large accident on A449 northbound just off Junc 2 M54.down to one lane plenty of ambulances, fire engines, police cars etc.

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Oct 21<sup>st</sup> 2018 - Multiple vehicle accident on A449 near to Gailey road closed. Traffic delays due to incident with car and lorry on A5 near to reservoir. Car written off.

Oct 24<sup>th</sup> 2018 - Anyone trying to get from Stafford to Penkridge tonight is going to have a long wait, junc 13 south closed at Dunston so all traffic coming through Penkridge don't try Acton Trussel accident along lane there too.

Oct 31<sup>st</sup> 2018 - 3+ vehicle shunt at the garage half way between the A5 between j12 and Gailey island. At least one car and a van look write offs. Police vehicles in attendance. Solid traffic backing up towards Cannock and Penkridge.

**March 2019** – Motorcyclist suffered heart attack by Weston Park. A5 closed as air ambulance landed.

Stretton A5 – vehicle crashed through the hedge police in attendance.

8.00am A5 closed at Longford Island to Churchbridge Cannock – accident by Caterpillar factory. Queues back to J12 M6.

14<sup>th</sup> March 2019 – 6.00am M6 Southbound closed J10. Collision between lorry and member of the public. M54 closed at J1 & J2. Traffic diverting down A5. Cannock/Wolves gridlocked. Chaos trying to get from Coven Road onto A449 Stafford Road.

20<sup>th</sup> March 2019 3.45pm – 2 lanes closed Northbound M6 between 12 & 13. Gridlock.

2.0 Residents Feedback Regarding Road Infrastructure.

### **– 17th May 2018**

With being a resident of Weston under Lizard by Weston Park, drivers of all vehicles are no longer respecting the 40mph speed limit especially at night.

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You can hear the lorries and motorbikes especially speeding up at night waking my [REDACTED].

Our main concern is the speed and volume of larger sized lorries. You can easily tell if a lorry is speeding due to the noise, wind speed off the vehicle and the shudder of the lorry passing the house. My husband would like to mention the particular time that lorries are likely to speed is at 3am when my husband leaves work on a local dairy farm, on many occasions when he has left the house to walk to the car, he has been blown into the fence when walking along the footpath and all when he gets on to the A5 driving at below 40mph he is over taken by lorries on a solid double white line.

During the day the amount of lorries travelling per hour is under 10, however you still feel the effects when your in the garden especially from the noise which startles my [REDACTED] which sometimes makes her cry because it was so loud. Thus making her not feel safe in the garden and normally have to go to the village playground even though the noise can still be heard.

Also during the night the sound of lorries and vehicles have woken all 3 of us in the household, despite all windows with internal glazing being closed.

Please feel free to pass this email on to the councilors as the speed of vehicles depends on the safety of the village residents and it will only take one speeding lorry to crash into someone's garden or house and cause a lot of destruction.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 from – White Pump Barns**

Hi I would just like to mention a couple of things that are a real issue to me and my family living in this area. I understand you are the local parish councillor for Wheaton Aston so I will start with that first. I understand you are on the committee called " Stop West Midlands Interchange (in South Staffs Greenbelt) " we, my husband and I, have some serious issues with this as well. The A5 is used continuously day and night by all manner of traffic. This causes a lot of pollution, which in itself is a serious issue. I have a serious lung condition, which is exacerbated, by the high levels of toxins emitted from cars and lorries. In the six years I have lived here the traffic appears to have got worse especially lorries that use the A road and when one breaks down, as

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they do, the traffic comes to a standstill and a ten-minute journey suddenly becomes much longer. There is also very dangerous overtaking that goes on, very often as a result, although not always, of people getting stuck behind slow moving farm vehicles or lorries. This is EXTREMELY dangerous for oncoming traffic as there is nowhere to go if there is an error of judgement from the vehicle overtaking, which incidentally are sometimes lorries. The area I live in which is ST 19 9QU has become more built up over the past few years so obviously there is more residential traffic to contend with without increase in lorries which would definitely, without a doubt get considerably worse if the Gaily Freight Hub goes ahead, slow moving, or traffic at a standstill produces more car/lorry emissions which are a danger to all. I sincerely hope the people who are in a position to help will take my concerns seriously. Forgot to mention about noise pollution. Also, forgot to mention that I use the A5 at night and lorries are a major problem, as they very often don't dip their headlights and being a windy, narrow road it can be a hair raising experience.

### **A5 Traffic 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 . Weston Under Lizard**

My name is ?? and I have lived in Weston under lizard now for five yrs. We moved from Bedfordshire, from an area that has had similar problems with heavy traffic travelling above speed through small villages and rural areas. Certainly when we first moved to Weston the traffic didn't seem so heavy but speed has always been a concern and now with the big lorry's trundling down the A5 at all hours this to has become a concern along with heavy traffic.

We have a grandson of [REDACTED] who lives with us at the moment along with having [REDACTED]. The road worry's me as far as an accident waiting to happen (a long with those already tragically that have occurred).

I love my village and being so close to Weston Park itself, but I feel the traffic load we have scars the village sadly.

Would it be possible to propose some speed calming measures such as humps with pedestrian crossing (keeping in mind the park itself) or maybe some chicanes. It seems things like this would have a twofold effect of slowing cars down and deterring heavy goods vehicles from travelling down this rd.

Thanks for your time and concern.



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### **24<sup>th</sup> May 2018 – Bishops Wood Resident.**

I have hijacked one of your flyers left in Weston under Lizard as you have been asking for comments on the current traffic position on the A5.

I live in Bishopswood and have to travel from there (ST199AG) to Stafford (off Beaconside ST189TH) each day. The increase in traffic is enormous – and particularly the 40-ton HGV portion has increased considerably. The junction at the top of Ivetsey Bank Road is extremely difficult to cross and the increase in Wheaton Aston traffic as a result of various new builds is noticeable also. The speed of the traffic is certainly not the 60 mph it should be.

The “ pinch points” as the West Midlands Interchange informed us, can be ironed out by larger and more frequent roundabouts, which is errant nonsense but doubtless will be fallen for in due course aided by those conglomerates out to make a fast buck.

The default position in the morning is queue to make a right turn on to the A5 then a queue at Gailey then a queue to join the M6 either at Junction 12 – where there are so many 40 ton HGV some mornings filtering in is difficult as the drivers simply will not move over or slacken speed. The reduction from 4 lanes back to three at Junction 13 results quite often in a convoy of trucks driving so close together that there is no room to change lanes anyway.

Exiting at Junction 14 is the same; on my journey I am then stuck on the approach to Beaconside, which is also queued back to the motorway because of new house building and temporary lights for access.

If there is an accident on the M6 the default position is to close the motorway down which has happened on three occasions recently when it took myself and three of our employees to ST189TH 3 hours to get to work. All other routes to Stafford were gridlocked and as we run a garage/workshop we had cancelled MOT services, as we had no one on site. As you can imagine the knock on from that is not good for the business and you can only imagine the diesel particulate output on that morning. The fallback traffic on the A449/A5 just results in gridlock.

We now have the advent of an upgrade to a “ smart “ motorway between J13 and J14 (a euphemism for we’ll be able to increase fines income) and the

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queues are already forming - the average speed cameras are up but not working yet - when there is another accident the result will be exactly the same a 3 hour journey to work. The definition of “ smart” should be enlightening – presumably another indication that the hub will go ahead whatever.

To increase the traffic flow from the proposed rail hub on to A5 or the M6 is a proposal not remotely justified within such a green belt area.

We are losing our green status in South Staffordshire and allowing more and more traffic on these A roads is increasing pollution tremendously – you only have to look at what hedging we still have along the A5/A449 it is black with pollutants – and we are still approving house building where established trees and hedging are grubbed up and replaced with domestic sized landscaping.

There are hundreds of houses being built on my route to work, not one has solar panels or rainwater harvesting systems, or sustainable water permeating driveways. The extra costs for these items on a large scale could be cost effective but no one really cares about carbon neutral/sustainability. The noise barrier such greening provides is very necessary and often overlooked. We also have proposals to build hundreds more at Junction 3 M54.

I assume a giant Section 106 payment to cover the items that do not comply on these large builds suits everyone all round or indeed just re classifying green belt to allow building.

I do apologise for moving off topic but suffice to say any more traffic on the A5 is not a good idea!!

My daughter lives in Weston under Lizard and we are all aware of traffic noise when in her garden now – I have taken the liberty of forwarding your flyer to neighbours so hopefully more comments will appear.

I have just come back in from a dog walk across the common in Bishopswood and the noise of the traffic even at this time of the evening is a constant as you confirm from your own experience.

### **24<sup>th</sup> May 2018 – Weston Close, Weston-Under-Lizard.**

Finds it extremely difficult to turn out the Close and indeed a neighbour was crashed into whilst trying to do so. The potholes in the A5 make the lorries very noisy at night especially if they are carrying pallets.

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**25<sup>th</sup> May 2018 Weston Under Lizard Rectory Drive.**

Dear Councillor A,

I am responding with a few thoughts/comments having received your note pushed through our letterbox.

My wife, daughter and I were one of the few local residents who attended one of the public consultations regarding the proposed Gailey Freight Hub. I also submitted my comments, which largely revolved around traffic volumes travelling along the A5 between the A41 and the A449 through Weston-under-Lizard, to the appropriate parties ahead of the deadline for comments copying in local MP Jeremy Lefroy.

I continue to be concerned that (apparently) little attention or fieldwork analysis has been undertaken of the likely volumes of freight traffic that will travel up and (more likely) down the A41 from the ports on the North West coast and other distribution hubs in the North West destined for the Gailey

Freight Hub (if it is established). The A41 is already a tremendously busy road for HGVs and articulated lorries and there is ample evidence of premature wear and damage to the road on the stretch of the A41 from Whitchurch to the A41's junction with the A5 where freight traffic would have to turn left to travel along the A5 to reach the Gailey Freight Hub via the A449 junction. When I challenged representatives of the developer at the Public Open Meetings they were rather vague about all of this and if I am cynical, this is either because they have not done the underlying analysis looking at predicted traffic volumes or alternatively they have and they don't want us to know the results. They also tried to suggest that freight traffic coming from the North West would use the M6 but this is already a heavily congested stretch of the M6 made worse by the current road works on the stretch up to and just beyond Manchester.

You will know that the narrowest part of the A5 is the section which passes through Weston-under-Lizard where there are double white lines and at many points, particularly where there is not a clear view of the road ahead, there is barely enough room for two articulated lorries to pass by each other; indeed I have already seen one incident where one lorry lost its driver's side mirror when the two collided for this very reason.

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## **A5 Traffic Feedback 2**

### **A5 resident The Avenue 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018 FB feedback**

We are sick and tired of the lorries coming down the A5 as if they think they are on the motorway they have no respect for the speed limit at all they are doing speeds up to 60 mph when they should be doing 50mph on a single carriage way that is the law we have reported to the police and the council and they don't want to know about the speeding vehicles it's about time the police and council do something before innocent people are killed or injured we cannot sleep at night they need to see what's going on for themselves then they might understand what we are paying our taxes for well it's about time they start earning their wages.

Hi I would be happy for you to use my feedback hope it works as we speak now it's that time of night again HGV's on the A5 ignoring the speed limit another sleepless night again I just want someone to do something about it we are fed up with it night after night.

Lorries are turning down The Avenue and speeding down the middle of the road. The road is in very poor condition. A friend, whilst turning right into The Avenue from the A5 has been collided with, as the vehicle simply did not see her. Vehicles overtake on double white lines. The grass verges need cutting back as they block visibility when turning out of the junctions on the A5. HGV's are travelling in excess of the 50 mph, the lorries coming from Liverpool /Ireland have no limiters on them and are reaching 60mph. The speed cameras are in situ at the wrong times of day and there is not enough consistency in the information they must gather.

### **email 30<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

I'm responding to your letter about the traffic issues along the stretch of A5 (Gailey to Weston).

I agree there's been a significant increase in traffic on this stretch of the A5 over the last 18 months - 2 years. We notice it all the more because we live on the crossroads in Stretton to Brewood and Penkridge.

We've also seen an increase in the traffic at evenings, particularly lorries, travelling at speed which has made sleeping more difficult. I've been reliably

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informed that triple glazing has been installed in a property on the A449, which was funded by the Ministry of Transport to alleviate such noise issues on that stretch of road. Is this something you could look into during your enquiries?

### **(Eaton House – Gailey) 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018**

I live next to Gailey Island (Eaton House) and the traffic by there has never been good, but recently it seems to be getting worse, especially during rush hours and a bit after 3 a lot if the time it backs up all the way to Stretton Mill.

On many occasions when going to work towards Penkridge or when taking my partner to work towards Wolverhampton, I have been cut up by cars, lorries and even tractors whilst going round the island. It's very dangerous and now it's even worse now the grass hasn't been cut.

I have never been keen on pulling into where we live either because as soon as vehicles approach the A5 they put their foot down to do 60 and probably more and they try and overtake me when I pull into our drive! It's always been dangerous, but it's especially worse now because we have our [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in the back of the car!

I think that lorries shouldn't be allowed to use the A5 and motorbikes and cars should stick to the speed limits. I personally think that when you come off Gailey island onto the A5 the speed should be dropped to either 40 or 50 and then gradually go up to 60 further down the road.

I think that if this were the case, there would be fewer accidents on the island and the stretch of road approaching it.

### **Weston Close Weston Under Lizard- telephone call 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018.**

#### **6.15pm**

Called to inform me of an incident/accident in Weston that had just occurred. Jonathan had stopped and was waiting to turn right into his property. A lorry behind could not stop and swerved around him. A van on the other side of the road stopped when he saw a lorry coming towards him and a car went into the back of him. No one hurt but the lorry drove off and didn't stop.

When the mum and daughter were killed last year nothing was done. No speed cameras, nothing at all was done. On the A449 in Shrewsbury in every village

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there is a 30mph limit and speed cameras and that's what is needed here all along this stretch of the A5.

He and his family have considered moving because the road is getting so busy and dangerous but why should they? Jonathan is the churchwarden at St Andrews and loves it here. He is concerned for his wife and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] safety though. Jonathan is going to try to get onto the Blymhill Parish Council to also try to do something about this dangerous road.

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A5 traffic

Good afternoon A, we live just off Congreve Lane - in response to your flyer

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regarding the traffic issue along the A5 between Gailey and Weston please see below my comments:

On an average day the volume of traffic along the A5 appears to have increased over the last 3 years. This increase in traffic is exacerbated when the M54 is closed or in any way impaired

- The noise from lorries is actually quite disruptive in the early evening, overnight and on Sundays.
- The absence of footpaths along the full length of the road means that public footpaths/bridleways on the opposite side of the road are inaccessible.
- Trying to walk along the footpaths that are in place is not a pleasant experience due to the speed and volume of traffic.

### **Email 7<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

Dear A thank for letter regarding the Gailey Freight and traffic on A5. I live in [REDACTED] on the A5; we are currently for sale, as we need to move areas for work however the increased traffic likely due to the Proposed Freight Hub is making this process very hard. The traffic is usually heavier morning and evening and quiet in day and evening and weekends however the amount of lorries proposed to use the new hub will I think impact heavily on the road ... part of our cottage is 16th century and was not built to cope with thundering lorries also I am worried that we will have trouble getting on and off the drive as well as the noise and the pollution. When the motorway is shut for whatever reason the traffic zooms down the road all day and all night very much like the motorway itself ... and I fear that this is what the stretch of road will become. I hate to be NIMBY about the situation but it is not fair that for something that was not proposed when I moved here 14 years ago will impact so greatly on our lives ... if we struggle to get off our drive then all the outlining villages will have the same problem as they won't be able to

get onto the A5 either ... the road at the moment (apart from when motorway is shut) is not actually busy and doesn't interfere with us. But there are always crash's where the lanes meet the A5 ...the road is not wide enough for the huge lorries. Our pavements (where there are some) are too narrow and the speed of traffic is too fast ... my previous neighbour had tried to get the speed



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reduced through the village (past all the houses and the lanes) to the same as Weston for 10 years to no avail ... We are a rather forgotten here I feel ... and feel very sad about the whole situation. I chose to live semi rural. If I wanted to listen to lorries and cars and bikes I could have chosen city living ... we here will be just as affected by the hub as the residents of Four Ash's for example (but they won't have the noise from traffic at speed) they will be compensated we however will not. I have already written to Jeremy Lefroy and Gavin Williamson and completed the questionnaire we were sent. If we don't manage to sell (without reducing house price dramatically which isn't fair) I have loved living here and would want to be happy to continue to live here, as it's a lovely area. So I do feel very sad about the whole situation. The road it is a major worry to me. My neighbours who rent from Mr Monckton have already left and as he owns most of the property in my village I am sure it doesn't concern him, as there are always people to rent whilst we are stuck.

Apologies for waffling but I don't wish any more traffic on the road than there is at moment. I would like better road system with lower speeds. Usable safe pavements and no Freight hub and if it does go ahead I would like all residents to be compensated not just those on their doorstep ... this hub will affect everyone who lives in its vicinity.

### **15<sup>th</sup> June 2018 – Telephone call with ? Farm A5**

Has witnessed 2 lorries overtaking each other on the double white lines outside the farm. The overtaking lorry did not get completely past until Café India. A foreign artic lorry turned onto the driveway 2 weeks ago and attempted to turn around on the tarmac. Peter chased after him and made him

drive to the top of the path and turn around on the hardcore. He would have torn up the tarmac and there was very little room.

### **16<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

A5 TRAFFIC

In reply to your letter to the residents of the A5 (Gailey to Weston stretch). I am concerned about the amount of motorbikes, heavy goods traffic and their

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size. There are no speed cameras along this stretch and to have national speed limit is purely a joke, 50 mph is more than adequate. I also think that a set of traffic lights by the crossroads would be a good idea.

I also think that there has been an increased amount of traffic noise throughout the night.

I know that you are never going to stop the traffic on the A5 but think that there are many ways that it could be managed better.

I am against the opposed freight hub as I am sure there are other areas where this would be more suitable to be located. I am willing to do anything to help this from going ahead and hope that other residents are with you on this as it will spoil what green belt we have left. If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

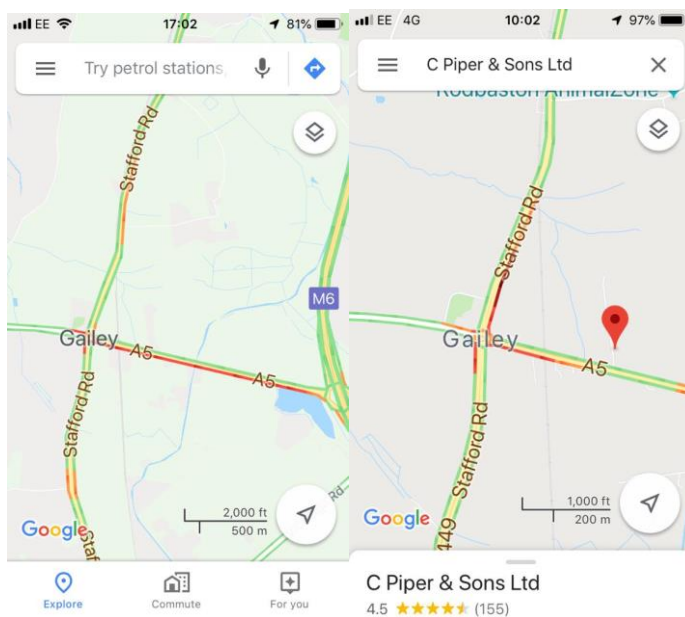
# Strategic Rail Freight Interchange

## Further Photographic Evidence of Blocked Roads

### Station Drive



## Google Maps 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019 5.00pm



## M6 J12 Slip Road to Gailey March 2019 (Rush hour Roadworks cleared at Gailey)

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## **2. LOCAL WAREHOUSING & INDUSTRIAL UNITS TO LET**

### To Let:

1. New Build Warehouse – 372k sq ft @ M6DG, Kingswood Lakeside, Hickling Road, Cannock WS11. Marketed by GVA Grimley. Close to M6 & M6 Toll
2. New Build Warehouse/Industrial 30k sq ft @ Burntwood Business Park Zones 2, 3 & 4. Owned by London and Cambridge Properties (who by the way own the Boscomoor Business Park in Penkridge)
3. Speculative New build for let (or sale) 3 Storey office building @ The Dell Business Park, Enterprise Drive, Four Ashes. Marketed by Bulleys. Close to M6/M6Toll
4. New Build Industrial – 128k sq ft @ DC2 Prologis Park, Mustang Drive, Stafford, ST16 1GW. Marketed by JLL. Close to M6 J14

### For Sale (or Let)

5. Speculatively built 115k sq ft Warehouse/Office/Yard (called the Triton Building), Hurricane Way, Redhill Business Park, Stafford ST16. Has been on the market for well over 12 months and is marketed by JLL.
6. In progress speculatively built 80k sq ft Warehouse/Office, Redhill Business Park, Stafford ST16 – AGM Construction. Close to M6 J14
7. 60k sq ft Industrial Development Land (Outline Planning for B8 Storage & Distribution – Plan 1207/PL/26 Rev M), Plot 11, Beacon Business Park, Western Road Stafford. (Owners: ISE Business Park). Close to M6 J14
8. Existing Light Industrial building @ Station Works, Station Road, Four Ashes. Marketed by Bulleys
9. Existing Light Industrial building @ Latches Close, Four Ashes. Marketed by Bulleys
10. Land available for Industrial, Warehouse & Distribution @ Gallen Park, Watling Street, Cannock. Marketed by Lambert Smith Hampton.
11. Commercial Property @ Vicarage Road.

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12. Industrial Unit, Transmission Units, Old Trafford Road, Slade Heath.  
WV10 7PH, 1129.88 sq m/12161.93 sq ft.

13. Industrial Development Units, Gailey Park, Wolverhampton 450, Gailey  
Park, Standeford, WV10 7GW. 41620.21 sq m/ 447996.21 sq ft.

14. Entire Scheme, Hilton Cross, Hilton Main Industrial Estate,  
Wolverhampton, Featherstone, WV10 7HP. 9290.23 sq m/ 99999.20 sq ft.

Links to the websites to support the above:

<https://www.lsh.co.uk/commercial-properties/freehold-leasehold/general-industrial-warehouse-distribution-land/gallan-park%2C-watling-street-cannock-ws11-0xf-29848?currency=1>

<https://www.lcpproperties.co.uk/unit-details/2398/new-build-unit-16-zone-3>

<https://www.gva.co.uk/properties/for-sale-or-to-let-distribution-facility-in-cannock/>

<https://www.bulleys.co.uk/>

<https://www.novaloca.com/commercial-property/industrial%20properties%20in%20Cresswell,%20Staffordshire>

Info on I54 construction:

<https://www.birminghampost.co.uk/business/manufacturing/i54-set-100-acre-expansion-14292748>

Barbour ABI is a company that provides construction intelligence to UK businesses. It has a free 5-page report, which may or may not be helpful.

<https://www.barbour-abi.com/>

<https://southstaffordshire.pps.tractivity.co.uk/SearchResults.aspx>

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### **3. LOSS OF GREENBELT IN SOUTH STAFFS**

In October 2018 at the Conservative Party Conference held in Birmingham, Michael Gove, Environment Secretary, talked about scope *to expand the current network of national parks*.

Professor Kathryn Moore, architect/Birmingham City University, responded to Gove's invitation for ideas – an idea for what a national park should be.

“To live in cities in a way that lives up to UN sustainable development goals”. At the conference the Professor unveiled the plans for a new national park for the West Midlands.

**Point 1- We are South Staffordshire but West Midlands are taking over part of our area, therefore, why should we not be considered to become a national park or follow same arguments for our style of, living to be same as what they want to give city people. We have chosen this area over city living – we have certain disadvantages ...lack of transport, amenities etc. ... but consider countryside for our health and welfare of our families. But there are those that think we should give this up to provide industrialised area for West Midlands. What happens to Un sustainable development goals?**

Moore suggests Birmingham should be *“city of a thousand cycle and footpaths, a thousand parks and a thousand lakes”*

**Point 2 – we have natural cycle paths (part of national cycle network) and footpaths (part of Staffordshire Way), parks (natural woodland surrounds, once royal forests and includes Cannock Chase part of National Trust), and lakes (local reservoirs, canals. And lakes)**

Professor Moore wants cities *“better place to live in, more productive as well as attractive”*. *“to increase food security, to create a new connection between the communities and the countryside people not experienced for decades”*

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**Point 3 – we have had our attractive green belt for decades, in fact centuries. It holds a lot of local history. Indeed, A5 and sites along it date back to Roman times as well as historical sites in area. But developers want to take it away and make it an industrial eyesore that Moore is trying to move away from. Already local greenbelt is been taken over by housing developments putting overload on our amenities, but West Midlands wants to industrialise our countryside but make cities greenbelt.... can government say where our countryside/leisure areas will then be located.**

She states, *“The park would focus on encouraging active healthy lives and wellbeing”*

**Point 4 – we chose this area to follow active healthy lives and to improve our wellbeing for ourselves and our family - We walk, cycle, Horse ride, run along lanes, footpaths, canals, countryside - where does Moore suggest we go. Developers offer 3 country parks within Hub but these are small and will be polluted, surrounded by large warehouses which might not allow even sunshine and may probably only become places where youngsters from local towns come to sit at night to drink, smoke, take drugs, use gas canisters, as can be seen regularly in mornings in our lanes and even open spaces in our villages...Perhaps Moore can suggest how we maintain our healthy lifestyles...travel 25 miles to get what we already have.**

Moore blames traditional development practices for long-term social, economic and environmental damage. Arterial roads etc have been built at a cost to communities and aesthetics. Roads created where drivers sit in their private boxes in rush hour gridlock and neglected public spaces where you could walk or sit.

**Point 5 where can we walk or sit if development goes ahead plus we are already grid locked here everyday with surrounding motorway, A449, A5 and nearby M54. New large housing developments will only further add to this traffic as they are sold because they are near commuter roads. Our lanes are already used by local towns, cities, suburbs as short cuts to motorways and the toll road.**



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Moore says *“roads carved up neighbourhoods and made them more deprived as a result...communities are ringed by roads that are hard to cross....can't get out of neighbourhoods to get to work or education...roads meant to connect people actually serve to leave some behind”*

### **Point 6 – is she describing our villages as well we can argue same points and we have local city traffic not just our own**

Moore feels plans have become unstuck because of money, council cuts cited as problems at moment.

**Point 7 – a national park is already here with wonderful countryside, footpaths, cycle paths, canals, parkland, reservoirs etc. with only a little capital easy links could be put in to link us easily to West Midlands.... they have told us this is reason they want hub here and nowhere else. We have other nearby sites Shugborough Hall, Weston Park already used by West Midlands for events.**

She cites potential sources for funding as Department of Transport, Environment Agency, Natural England, Canal and River Trust...

### **Point 8 – our area already involved with them**

Students were asked about the city that said they would like access to parkland. But there are already several large parks within easy reach in Birmingham, - Cannon Hill Park, Sutton Park, Handsworth Park with Clent, Forest of Arden and Lickey Hills on doorstep. Moore explains that tourism is part of her agenda but wants to boost skill areas in West Midlands in agriculture, food production.

**Point 9 - we have these and development will take these away and the associated skills away from locals. Why not keep and develop this area? This will provide employment for thousands, both locals and West Midlands in these areas and tourism.**

Moore says *“the park would boost the economy because it would make it more attractive for people to want to live here and more attractive for business”* Andy Street supports her views

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She says citizens map their area by roads not natural landscape – but Birmingham has canals, rivers

**Point 10 – we have them including very ancient trees all of which will be destroyed or swallowed up by development,**

(Article from the Guardian 20<sup>th</sup> June 2018 – plus points made at Conservative Conference – [www.theguardian.com](http://www.theguardian.com))

Also 26.6.2018 [www.birminghammail.com](http://www.birminghammail.com) / [www.bcu.ac.uk](http://www.bcu.ac.uk)

In Summary

Prof Moore: *“For a long time the West Midlands has been viewed as a concrete jungle and the way that we have carried out our planning and construction has led into that but if you look at the maps in a different way, there is a huge potential for the project...not only could creating national park bring some real economic, social and environmental benefits, it would also drive investment, boost tourism and create new jobs at the heart of country.”*

*“Focus on contours of the landscape, its rivers, streams, canal networks, heritage biodiversity, identity and culture”*

We have these, but developers are trying to destroy ancient countryside and greenbelt and turn into a warehouse jungle, increase traffic on already gridlocked roads, take away healthy living for local villages, destroy natural habitat in fields and reservoirs...all against what government says they are trying to do for the benefit of all citizens. The area could be enhanced...we are at the beginning/middle/end of grid locked M6. Would a vision be to make

it like France where people who have been traveling for ages and don't want to stop at motorway services can pull into a picnic area for a comfort break and stretch their legs...they are closed at night but open during day.... we can sell our area as well.

It should be noted at same time Michael Gove was putting forward his environmental ideas to improve agricultural policy. If you look at this, he is trying to put into place things on one side of a road whilst destroying the same on the other side of the road!

Gove's "green Brexit" – *“public goods supported in future will include improvements in soil. Air and water quality, protecting and enhancing wildlife*

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*habitats, providing public access to the countryside, protecting the rural environment, flood risk mitigation and carbon reduction”*

***This is the basis of our argument of hub development – how can government try to put this into practice but at same time give the go ahead to destroy hectares and go against every one of the above factors.***  
*www.fwl.co.uk*

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