

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [West Midlands Interchange](#)  
Subject: Re: Objection to West Midlands Interchange. TRO 50005  
Date: 04 April 2019 18:51:43

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CASE REFERENCE NUMBER; TRO 50005

F.A.O. Mr Paul Singleton

With regard to the above planning application I would like to make you aware of my very strong objections towards this catastrophic plan to decimate the green belt and in general village life with this project.

I have several reasons:

### 1) Massive Loss of Greenbelt

643 acres of greenbelt destroyed forever with devastating affects for the wildlife that are resident within this huge area for many years.

#### BIRDS INCLUDE

Barn Owls, Tawny Owls, Kestrels, Sparrow Hawks, Buzzards. These birds are all territorial and remain in the same area year after year to rear their young. With extra light & noise pollution and destruction of established habitat we risk losing them forever within the area.

We also have:

Pheasants, Jays, Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Green Woodpeckers, Hedge Sparrows, Swifts, Robins, Starlings, Blue Tits, Great Tits, Wagtails, Swallows, Cuckoos, House Martins, Yellow Hammers, Common Sparrows and the list goes on. some of these birds have already seen dwindling numbers according to reports by the RSPB and this project will only make matters worse. Many of these birds are migratory so return to the same sites year after year.

Water birds on the nearby river/canal include:

Herons, kingfishers, Swans, Moorhens, Mallards and an abundance of sea birds during the winter.

#### ANIMALS INCLUDE

Hares, Rabbits, Field Mice, Dormice, Stoats, Foxes, Badgers, Voles and confirmed sightings of Great Crested Newts in many places around the area.

The number of trees that will be felled to provide the space that this interchange needs will destroy decades if not centuries in some cases of safe havens for wildlife and support for ecosystems. Trees are the lungs of the earth and provide precious oxygen for our already struggling planet.

### 2) CO2 Pollution

An extra 18,624 estimated vehicles per day will only add to this planets battle against pollution, CO2 levels will rise by an estimated 17.3 tonnes per day resulting in devastating affects to our health. Studies have proven that this kind of pollution has long lasting affects on human beings cognitive intelligence, surely not only do we have to protect ourselves from this but also the generations of children to come. Green belt by its very definition helps to provide clean air and visually healthy mindset for both adults and children. In the area where this project is planned it will destroy many country pastimes enjoyed by all such as cycling, equestrian, walking to name but a few. Increased vehicle numbers will make it unsafe for both adults and children to partake in such activities. While traffic restrictions may be put into place on our country lanes, cars will still use these as rabbit runs to avoid the congestion on the main roads such as the A449 and A5. an estimated 600+ cars will be used by employees travelling to this site a day.

### 3) Light Pollution

Where greenbelt is situated by its very definition there is very little light pollution. This project will need intense floodlighting, added street lighting around the massive buildings, presumably it will also need security lighting not to mention illuminated company signs on each individual building. with a height of over 30 metres these will be visible not only locally but for many miles.

#### 4) Noise Pollution

Due to the huge amount of vehicles using this site every day the noise pollution is going to very high due to the use of Reversing Sirens, HGV arrival and departures, Rail Shunting, Loading and Unloading fork lift trucks and general industrial activity associated with a site of this kind.

#### 5) Traffic Congestion

Geographically the area planned for this development already suffers from most days especially during 'rush hour' from congestion. hot spots typically include the A449 through Penkridge village up to the M6 junctions, the A5 from Cannock through Gailey and as far as Ivetsy Bank with many of the vehicles already being HGV's. Another really bad site for congestion is around the Four Ashes Industrial Estate. Station Road especially has traffic trailing back on a daily basis to past the junction with Straight Mile and carries on quite a way up Vicarage Road where it runs down from the A5.

When closures on the M6 for whatever reason the queues through Penkridge village are already horrendous and especially during evening hours the sound of HGV vehicles is not in keeping with a village, add another 18,000 + vehicles to this scenario and only one thing can happen GRIDLOCK.

Residents of Station Drive in Four Ashes already have many problems with HGV's turning into their road from the A449 despite large signs warning them of a low railway bridge which is impassable for lorries of this size. On a daily basis the lorries attempts to reverse, or even worse turn around which has resulted in damage to garden walls, gates and queues of traffic behind stricken vehicles. Many do not even stay to explain the damage they have caused and this has been captured on CCTV by one resident who has taken the incidents up with the companies involved.

HGV's have also started to park up in Station Road to wait for access to various companies and this only adds to the congestion and impatience of other HGV drivers who have had many near misses when overtaking.

Two deaths have resulted already of cyclists, one in Station Road and another in Vicarage Road, added traffic especially HGV's will only higher the risk of more deaths in the area.

#### 6) Employment

South Staffordshire is an area with very low unemployment so would not benefit directly from jobs being created, areas where there are high unemployment would really benefit from a project of this size and there are sites that are far more suitable in the country that are crying out for jobs for their residents without having to destroy greenbelt.

#### 7) Visual Impact

The visual impact across the landscape that this project will have is detrimental to an area of natural beauty, warehouses of up to 30 metres in height will dwarf buildings of interest in the area such as Penkridge Parish Church and many other buildings with hundreds of years of history behind them. This development will decimate scenic views from many locations across the region. While the local residents have endured extra housing, wind turbines and a recycling plant we feel that we have done enough regarding impact to our villages. The wind turbines, recycling plant and the extra housing in Penkridge are now viewed as beneficial to not only to the local area but to the country in general. No one is of the opinion that the West Midlands Interchange is beneficial to the area or indeed the country.

## 8) Commercial Gain

With the slowing down of farming and agriculture in general in the local area, landowners are increasingly looking to sell land for commercial gain. This is not usually a problem with many farmers diversifying with various alternatives such as equestrian activities, model aircraft flying clubs, occasional small music concerts, nature reserves and many other uses for the land. All these activities have no negative impact on the environment and only add to the visitors to the local region that enjoy both the greenbelt and small village shops to spend their money in. Selling the land to a huge development like this seems immoral and a blight on the generations before them that not only farmed the land but also provided cottage housing for local workers. The huge warehouses will in addition command large rents if they are indeed filled as there are already many vacant warehouses around the local area that have been empty for a considerable amount of time.

## 9) The Rail Hub itself

One thing that really concerns me is that within the plans there is nothing to say that the Rail Hub itself should be constructed before the warehouses and this leads many local people including myself to believe that it will become a 'white elephant' and is being used as a smokescreen for approval for the warehouse development. When asked at a meeting with West Midlands Interchange what companies would be using these warehouses, a representative of the company replied and I quote 'well we don't know yet' this leads me to believe that it is not a case of demand and supply!

Finally the majority of local councillors and members of Parliament including the Rt. Hon. Gavin Williamson CBE Secretary of State for Defence who has been MP for South Staffordshire since 2010 have voiced the opinion that are totally opposed to this development.

In addition to this Gavin Williamson was actually quoted as 'being committed to protecting and preserving the greenbelt' in his constituency on behalf of the current Conservative Government.

With all things considered I implore you not to grant planning permission for this development as it will devastate a lot of people's lives including an elderly couple in their 80's who have felt compelled to possibly accept a compulsory purchase order for their farm house and land (which is earmarked for demolition) despite living there for 62 years and raising a family and using their 10 acres for livestock and horses. Retirement will not be as they envisaged if the upheaval of moving out of their family home is necessary and the disappointment of not being able to pass on their home to their family in the future. This is just one example of the development destroying elderly residents' golden years, some Gailey residents risk losing properties and businesses that have been occupied by four generations.

I feel safe in the knowledge that you will consider all things fairly and make an informed decision.

Yours hopefully,

Lisa Griffiths (Mrs)

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area of the letter.

