

16th March 2019.

My Ref: 20013147.

Planning No TR050005

Dear Mr Singleton,

There are several reasons for not building the West Midlands Interchange at the Four Ashes site.

Our local unemployment figures are less than 1% so we do not need the massive building proposed to create jobs.

This proposal includes a spur of rail track from the main line. During one of the local meetings we heard from Rail experts that due to the train timetable extra freight from this spur was not viable as it was too dangerous. There is not enough time between trains to let the freight trains out. Therefore we concluded that this Rail spur is just a tool to elevate the entire plan to the level of Strategic Rail Freight Hub which means the plans have to go straight to the Secretary of State bypassing our Local Planning Councils. Our local Councillors have all objected strongly to the plans because they have first hand knowledge of how badly the area will be affected.

Greenbelt land is never to be built on. Farmland, lakes, woodland, rivers and canals - our blessed countryside which we all enjoy will be destroyed forever and replaced

by 643 acres of 30metres high (98ft) warehouses along with tarmac roads & carparks, security lighting, street lights and 24 hour non-stop lorries. This mass of warehouses are will be alongside the canal so the many tourists who hire boats from Hatnerton, Penkridge and Brewood will no longer enjoy the countryside views across fields and woodlands.

A fundamental concern is the enormous impact the predicted 18624 lorries per 24 hours this proposal brings to such a small area. The traffic island of Gailey is already suffering from heavy congestion due to the Managed Motorway development on the M6 at Junction 13 Stafford and up towards Stoke on Trent. The A449 goes through the village of Penkridge and has already had to reduce the speed limit to 30mph due to traffic noise. There is a children's nursery right next to the main road and if this WMI goes ahead then the pollution will badly affect the babies and children. There are five schools in Penkridge also, all our childrens health will suffer from the 16.3 Tons of CO₂ emissions given off daily from the lorries!

Stoke on Trent is a town which has higher unemployment, also Wolverhampton. The area known as the 'Black Country' has so many Brownfield sites ready to be developed where jobs are needed: Tipton, Dudley, Coseley all next to the mainline Rail Network. The Ebruria estate in Stoke on Trent already has warehouses next to the rail track, surely this could be developed and more jobs provided. Because the warehouses are to be left by the construction company to be rented out, questions should be asked about who maintains the site and stops it from degrading and falling into disrepair. Also, who

3 will keep the site from spreading litter and all the mess that industry brings?

I hope this letter has given you a factual and impartial view of why this West Midlands Interchange cannot and should never be built on this precious Greenbelt site. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Yours sincerely

