

From: [REDACTED]
To: [West Midlands Interchange](#); [Robert Ranger](#)
Subject: West Midlands Interchange
Date: 19 July 2019 19:31:30

Dear Mr Singleton

As you know, I am a member of Stop WMI group. As a group we have remained professional, respectful and constrained. We have devoted a very considerable amount of time and energy over the last 3 years gathering support from professionals and fund raising to fund our fight against this development. I am so very proud of all our group who have carried on through many personal up's and down's, we have supported each other and many of our community who don't understand the process and who are fearful of the future. Many professionals have given us their advice and time for free or at a greatly reduced rate, we will be eternally grateful to them all.

It is time to speak from the heart.

From a personal point of view this has been stressful and upsetting. I liken the developer to a foreign invasion, lots of strange people coming to where we have lived in harmony for so many years, making notes on our homes and our environment. Pointing out their best view points through our hedgerows, which trees are in the way of development, which animals have to move, who's home will be demolished. Its all so simple to them, they think they are doing us all a favour as its a government initiative, is that how they justify it to allow them to sleep at night?

As you know, I myself have been involved in negotiations with the applicant to purchase my late grandmothers estate of which I have a small interest. It has bought me into conflict with my own family but it has been necessary for me to attend the meetings with the applicant, Mr Frost & Mr Cottage. Meetings in which they are discussing the value of my grandmothers estate, they talk of paying a 'pre blighted' value for Croft House. Pre-blighted value meaning not affected by the development. My family are not happy about having to move the business and have the house demolished, we all feel that there is no choice. If we dug our heels in and said no and the development gained consent then the business would be extinguished and the house demolished, what a choice!

Of course, the others of us that live here and around the development will be living with 'blighted' property values. The applicant only wants to keep the owners of property they need to obtain happy so that they agree terms. They point out that if a CP is activated the owners would not be in the situation of being paid full market value (pre blighted) all said very politely but these words are worrying and upsetting for many. Some families give in, some don't know what to do and some fight back. In psychological terms it is the fight, flight or freeze reaction.

Also, anyone who rents property will be in a very difficult situation unable to move away as other tennants will not want to come and live here and they, as tennents are reliant on their housing association or owner acting within the timescales for any claims.

I know things such as loss of view or loss of value on property are not taken into consideration in planning matters but for those of us who would have to live with the constant noise and dust of the building works, construction traffic etc for many years to come and then all that comes with the development itself may want to move away. Being forced into that sort of decision when we have a lovely, happy family home we thought we would stay in until the end of our days gives me a very heavy heart and then to find its monetary value would be so much less would make a move to a similar property

impossible. We would have to downsize considerably and then would not have the bedrooms available to continue [REDACTED]. This would affect every part of our lives.

This may be my final submission so, Mr Singleton, I would like to thank you for giving us ordinary people a voice in this difficult process. You have been fair minded and thoroughly extensive in your inquiry and having listened to you for many hours you have always been kind and deeply thoughtful in your language and intentions.

Kind regards

Donna Gilmartin