

From: [REDACTED]
To: [West Midlands Interchange](#)
Subject: West Midlands Interchange - comment to the Department of Transport
Date: 04 February 2020 12:37:16

Dear Sir / Madam,

I write regarding the proposal for development of a West Midlands Strategic Rail Freight Interchange.

I have previously outlined my varied concerns regarding the efficacy of this proposed development, arising primarily from the over congestion and pollution that would be caused by increased road freight traffic on an already overloaded road system.

I was alarmed, therefore, to learn that the proposed developer Four Ashes Ltd wish to ensure that any legally binding agreements/planning consent is worded that a rail terminal SHOULD rather than MUST be built, if this SRFI were to be given permission to proceed.

Such terminology would surely provide a technically legal loophole, and therefore provide the future opportunity for the company to renege on any intention to include rail transport in the venture, should it be allowed to go ahead.

It may also explain why there was not, as I understand it, any clear development of forward planning with the rail authorities before the detailed proposal was made to the Planning Inspectorate last year, even through the inclusion of rail is by definition essential for the categorisation of the project as a Strategic Rail Freight Development.

I am concerned that if this matter isn't addressed, and explicit clarification sought, then, if any development of this precious green belt area is allowed, it would be as an enormous freight hub only, and as such would have a massive and detrimental effect on road transport in this area of the Midlands.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs P A Brown & Mr C W Brown

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