

From: [REDACTED]
To: [West Midlands Interchange](#)
Subject: Response to SRFI near to Junction 12, M6 Motorway
Date: 06 February 2020 23:16:00

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your letter dated 24th January 2020. I am grateful to you for the opportunity to respond to the applicant's 'purported additional' representations made on 13 December 2019. However, as the building of Strategic Rail Freight Interchange was - and still is - the primary reason for this application being considered by the Secretary of State, the letter of the 13th December 2019 makes absolutely no sense to me whatsoever. It appears to be a deliberate, less than honest attempt to manipulate the Secretary of State into the granting of permission to build warehousing in the Green Belt - something totally contrary to the NPPF and the South Staffordshire Local Plans and Policies. The fact that this additional representation has been made in such a secretive and underhanded manner without being shared with the actual residents who live in the area speaks volumes about how this applicant has behaved in the last two years.

Despite having repeatedly asked at EVERY consultation, we - the local population - were never given a definitive, timed concrete answer as to when the ACTUAL rail freight interchange was to be built - in fact the word prevarication took on a new meaning - how many times can representatives of the applicant skirt around an answer? how many times can the applicants be vague in their answers? how many times can applicants delay giving someone an answer?

The reality is that the applicant intends to build 25% of the warehousing on the proposed site - in the green belt, which would not be connected or within the immediate vicinity of any rail connection for a period of up to 6 years and without the actual rail connection!. A huge amount of warehouses would be built, with the Secretary of State's approval, in the Green Belt and then maybe the rail interchange might be built. However it appears, the applicant does not appear overly confident that a rail interchange is actually viable at this particular location. But it would be too late then because the warehouses would have already been built and a huge area of South Staffordshire's Green Belt will have been lost and with no chance of recovering it.

I would argue (cynically) that this is not an additional representation but a known fact and has been known, to the developers for a substantial period of time prior to the 13th December 2019, but who have chosen to make this 'purported additional representation' at the eleventh hour - intending to avoid any consultation with the local population.

I therefore ask the Secretary of State to consider whether this whole application process has not been cynically manipulated by the applicant and, if the additional representations are to actually be taken into account - bearing the lateness of their submission, a further series of public consultations and examinations be organised and the decision of the Secretary of State be delayed until they are completed. Until all of the full facts are known, the Secretary of State cannot make a fully informed decision, based upon ALL of the facts. If this is not acceptable, the only alternative would be to urge the Secretary of State to reject the application.

Regards

Wendy Sutton
District Councillor
Brewood and Coven Ward
01902 851682

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