

30th November 2016

SENT BY EMAIL

Dear Councillor,

**Public Consultation regarding a proposed Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
(Strategic Rail Freight Interchange) west of M1 Junction 15**

On behalf of Roxhill I am writing to make you aware of a series of public consultation exhibitions to present information about proposals for a Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (SRFI) on land to the west of the A508, and east of the Northampton Loop railway line.

The proposed development is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), and while the Council will be notified formally about the start of consultation Roxhill was also keen to make direct contact with individual Members.

In brief, the development proposals include:

- An intermodal freight terminal including container storage and HGV parking, with rail sidings to serve individual buildings, and provision for a 'rapid rail freight' facility;
- Up to 468,000 sq.m of warehousing and ancillary buildings, with up to 155,000 sq.m. of additional mezzanine floorspace;
- A new access and associated works to the A508 south of the M1 junction, substantial improvements to Junction 15, and a new bypass to the village of Roade;
- Strategic landscaping and tree planting, including diverted rights of way;
- Earthworks to create development plateau and to create landscaped bunding around the site to substantially screen it from outside view.

As part of the NSIP process Roxhill is strongly encouraged to engage from an early stage with the local community and a wide range of other stakeholders and consultees. As part of this early engagement a series of initial, non-statutory consultation events is being held on 12th, 13th and 14th December at the Hilton Hotel, Collingtree from 1.30pm until 7.30pm.

I have enclosed a PDF version of the leaflet which will be distributed by post to every property in a wide surrounding area later this week and over the weekend.

We are writing to local ward Councillors across South Northamptonshire and Northampton Borough, and key Members at the County Council, and I have also contracted the surrounding Parish Councils.

These initial consultation events provide an early opportunity for local people to understand more about the proposals and the policy context, and to understand the ongoing work to prepare an Environmental Impact Assessment which will form an important part of the application for Development Consent. Much of this remains work in progress and as explained on the leaflet the exhibition will provide a wide range of information but will not contain finished or complete details about all aspects of the proposals or their likely impacts at this early stage in the process. Members of the technical consultant team will be present, and able to discuss the work undertaken to date and the planned or ongoing work, as well as to hear comments and questions.

There will also be further, statutory consultation exhibitions during 2017 at which time we will have further progressed the Environmental Impact Assessment. Finalisation and submission of the application is expected in late summer 2017.

The project website is now live and will be updated in advance of the 12th December to include a copy of the information which will be displayed at the exhibition. The website address is: <http://www.northampton-gateway.co.uk>

People are able to comment on the emerging proposals via the website, and will also be able to provide written comments in person at the exhibition. Comments are requested by 16th January.

I trust this information is of use to you, and we would welcome your input to the consultation process.

Yours sincerely



Steve Harley
On behalf of Roxhill (Junction 15) Ltd