

**From:** clerk@stokebruerneparishcouncil.org.uk [mailto:clerk@stokebruerneparishcouncil.org.uk]  
**Sent:** 02 November 2018 16:06  
**To:** Northampton Gateway  
**Subject:** Stoke Bruerne Parish Council

Stoke Bruerne Parish Council would like to **strongly object** to the above proposal.

Stoke Bruerne is a conservation area, an idyllic rural settlement of many traditionally built stone and thatched properties with the Grand Union Canal passing through its centre. The Village currently has a temporary 7.5T weight limit in place due to significant road closures around us to prevent thundering HGV's decimating our pretty, tranquil tourist destination. The proposed Northampton Gateway will do nothing to improve Stoke Bruerne for our residents and tourists and much to damage the Village in terms of traffic, pollution and loss of historic character.

Stoke Bruerne Parish Council strongly objects to this application. We are a small rural community already being blighted by the sheer volume of traffic using our narrow and twisting rural road network. This issue is being compounded by major pressure on other parts of the local network resulting in more and more vehicles including large numbers of HGV's using rural South Northamptonshire Villages as "rat runs" to avoid congestion on the A508, A5, A43 & M1. Any issue however small on any of these trunk roads results in gridlock for our residents and high levels of noise and pollution. As this pressure is already forecast to grow the last thing this area needs is Northampton Gateway which would add over 16,500 vehicles trip a day with over 4,000 being diesel HGV's. As you can see from the picture of our listed road bridge Stoke Bruerne is not meant to accommodate large volumes of traffic.



Northamptonshire is already blighted with oversized speculative warehousing much with unused capacity and we understand the DIRFT only 18 miles away also has unused capacity. We genuinely do not believe there is a need for this project and would question how much traffic the rail interchange would take off the road when compared to how much this proposal will add to the road congestion? We would also bring your attention to the fact that local labour is in short supply and these proposals

confirm that labour will need to be brought in from further afield thus increasing traffic and pollution further.

Areas around us are already at the top end of pollution acceptable levels and local authorities are being pressed to reduce these levels – this proposal will just compound local pollution issues. The proposed development site is 520 acres of in-production farmland and home to many wildlife habitats we urge you not to destroy this area which currently gives some green breathing space between rural communities and the high pollution levels of the M1 & A45 etc.

Finally we draw your attention to Local Planning policies which clearly use the M1 as a boundary to development and this land forms part of a strategic "gap". We believe that by including a rail link Roxhill is trying to build a predominately speculative warehousing operation by bypassing local democracy and planning policies which would if decided locally see the application turned down out of hand.

If this proposal does get the go ahead then we urge you to protect Stoke Bruerne and its neighbouring rural settlements. As a minimum we insist upon a permanent 7.5T weight limit and traffic management plans in place for all vehicles using the Roxhill site to avoid Stoke Bruerne. We have a primary school in the centre of the Village which sits virtually on the road daily we see HGV's having to mount the kerb just to pass each other. Our children and families deserve better than this.

Once historic settlements are damaged beyond recognition they cannot be returned to what they once were please do not allow a speculative warehousing scheme destroy Stoke Bruerne.

**Alison Benson (Mrs) CiLCA**  
**Clerk to Stoke Bruerne Parish Council**

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