

From: Quinton Parish Council [mailto:quintonparishcouncil@gmail.com]

Sent: 05 November 2018 09:11

To: Northampton Gateway

Subject: - Quinton Parish Council

Dear Sir

Quinton Parish Council would like to **strongly object** to this application. We are a very small rural community already being blighted by the sheer volume of traffic using our narrow and twisting overburdened 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 Quinton as a "rat run" to avoid congestion at J15 of the M1/A45 etc. and getting to/from Milton Keynes and beyond. Any issue on the M1 results in gridlock for our residents who become virtually barricaded in their own driveways. As this pressure is already forecast to grow the last thing this area needs is Northampton Gateway which would add over 16,500 vehicle trips a day with over 4,000 being diesel HGV's.

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. Northampton needs to attract skilled labour from elsewhere and this proposal will not achieve this, and the low skilled labour required initially will reduce as automation increases.

We suggest that this is speculative warehousing application under the guise of a rail freight terminal with the developer intent on re-locating existing warehousing from elsewhere to the convenient location of the M1. It is not sustainable as it has no regard for the wellbeing of the local area or local residents

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.

Quinton Parish Council would also like to draw your attention to the proposal of a left in and left out only of the Blisworth Rd onto the A508. Quinton residents have strong reliance on Towcester for dentist, library, shopping & social amenities which they access through Blisworth. By not being able to turn right onto Blisworth Rd from the A508 will result in much longer journey times. We also have local farmers who regularly need to access the Blisworth Rd from the A508.

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 being decided locally see the application turned down out of hand.

**Alison Benson CILCA
Clerk to Quinton Parish Council**

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