

COLLINGTREE PARISH COUNCIL

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25th September 2019

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The Case Team
The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

I.P Ref: 20011012

Dear Case Team

Reference: TRO50006

Application by Roxhill (Junction 15) Limited (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent to construct a new Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (SRFI) adjacent to Junction 15 of the M1 in Northamptonshire (“the Proposed Development”).

Collingtree Parish Council wishes to comment on the response given by the Applicant to the further evidence requested by the Department of Transport regarding impacts on Air Quality during construction of the proposed development and the associated work to provide a by-pass to Roade. The comments are as follows:

No new evidence has been provided to justify the assessment that the impact on air quality for local receptors will be ‘negligible’ and it is conceded that this judgement is largely ‘qualitative’ i.e. guesswork.

It is unrealistic and counter intuitive to claim that the levelling and uprooting of 500 acres of farmland, woodland and hedgerows will not have a negative environmental impact (dust, airborne particulate matter) on nearby communities.

An important factor is the prevailing wind direction and the already existing airborne pollution (No2/PM2.5) from the M1 motorway.

The Parish Council has commented previously, on the inadequacy of baseline measurements of air quality in its area and therefore the likely inaccuracy of the modelling forecasts produced.

The Council notes that the applicant has been unable to provide the Planning Inspectorate with a calculation of how the carbon associated with construction and operation of 5m sq ft of warehousing, will be offset.

The Council also notes that 30 other parish councils around the site area have registered with the Planning Inspectorate, their concern over the cumulative impact of large scale development on levels of air, noise and light pollution.

This widespread concern is further highlighted by the resolution of Northamptonshire County Council to oppose this proposed development on the grounds that 'local villages would be seriously affected by air, noise and light pollution that cannot be adequately mitigated against'.

Finally, other than the publication of its own assessments, the applicant has not engaged in any direct consultation with either this parish council or affected residents.

Yours faithfully

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Mrs Shirley Wong
Clerk to the Council
Collingtree Parish Council