

Good morning

I am Stuart Bray, Leader of Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council and i'm also the County Councillor for St Marys division which covers part of Burbage and Hinckley town centre - which will be greatly impacted should the scheme go ahead.

I know there have been comments to the Inquiry about expressing concerns about the lack of meaningful consultation and the national infrastructure process in general and whilst I do have concerns of my own in this regard. The Council made it's comments known as the adequacy of consultation state in this regard therefore I am going to focus my time of the impact of the scheme on the Borough generally and in particular my constituents in Hinckley and Burbage.

I am Hinckley born and bred and the value that people locally place on Burbage Common and Woods cannot be understated.

I believe the impact of the proposal will have a devastating detrimental impact on the common and people's ability to enjoy the peaceful open space it provides.

This loss of open countryside that separates our villages from the motorway which will be replaced by units - up to 30m in height will have a huge impact on the visual amenity and change and blight the landscape forever.

The A47 link road will impact on the green wedge - which have long been established in this part of Leicestershire and who's function is to maintain separation between settlements in this case Hinckley / Burbage from Barwell and Earl Shilton.

I also have major concerns about the impact of traffic. Anyone who lives locally will know how gridlocked our roads can already become at peak times. 100s if not 1000s of extra car movements will simply ensure our area grinds to a halt. The impact especially on the A5 and the likelihood of traffic travelling east being attracted to use the A47 around Hinckley to get to the link road rather than following the A5 to the M69 and then going north to J2.

I am particularly concerned about what will happen if there was an incident on the M69 or other local strategic roads. I have seen little, if any, alternatives proposed. The only alternative will be more traffic through the urban area of the Borough which will cause chaos.

I have seen nothing that persuades me that employees to these sites will not have to come and go by car. There will be a need to connect Hinckley, Barwell and Earl Shilton communities to the development and the sustainable transport strategy currently doesn't give me confidence that this will be delivered. We know that public transport across Leicestershire is at best patchy and when you get to early mornings and evenings it is virtually non-existent. We are all aware of the need for sustainable development - but this entirely unsustainable in my view.

I see very little benefit to this scheme. There are no shortage of haulage and warehousing jobs in this part of Leicestershire and the impact of the noise, light, traffic on the surrounding towns and villages will be huge.

I would like to formally endorse the submissions submitted by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and commend colleagues from the surrounding towns and parishes for their efforts in opposing these scheme.

I would like to thank the Inspectorate for listening to my comments and respectfully urge you to reject this scheme which I believe will be a permanent blight on the area.