

I write as Chairman of Burbage Parish Council. Below is a mixture of comments I was hoping to make at the ISH6 hearing, and comments which follow on from the evidence heard at ISH6 itself. It was unfortunate that time constraints at the hearing prevented concerns of Burbage residents being heard in person.

As you know Burbage Parish Council is particularly concerned about the impact on the village in the event of major problem on the SRN, given the large volume of traffic generated by the development. You will recall we outlined these concerns in our REP1 submission in which we asked for these disruption scenarios to be modelled. In addition to our concerns about major disruption due to the motorway closures discussed at ISH2, we believe even modest congestion at key junctions could trigger HGV traffic patterns through Burbage.

Assessment of the Impact of Motorway Closures

We specifically asked that the “emergency motorway network closures” be covered in ISH2

In the afternoon of ISH2, we were extremely pleased that the subject was discussed and further encouraged that Mr Jackson gave useful guidance on the subject.

I quote; “but we should do that [that is model the traffic in this situation], then we need to know what the effects of that would be. And whether those are acceptable, because if they are not acceptable, then there has to be a question as to whether the whole development is acceptable”

The action was summarised as follows: “Submission of an emergency plan for HGV routing should the M69 be closed, with consideration of the effects of such closure.”

I have to say that the applicant’s two-page response to this, rather specific, guidance is poor and undermines the potential seriousness of this situation to the residents of Burbage.

At ISH2 the discussion was about modelling the impact of the closure of the M69, in their reply on the impact of such circumstances is that;

- Other routes will be used
- “short term congestion in the local area is to be expected”

In my opinion this is **NOT an assessment** of the impact in any characterisation of that requirement, it is “a statement of the obvious”

The document is completely silent upon the risks or impacts of HGVs most importantly but also other vehicles taking non-preferred routes in these circumstances.

These are real concerns, because residents here have experienced such situations even with the present levels of traffic in our area. A two page note on such things is not what our residents had expected and hope the ExA will require the applicant to carry out an assessment of the impact of motorway closure disruption.

Monitoring HGV Movements

We have reviewed the latest HGV Route Management Plan (REP4-114) and the document has not been updated to take account of any discussion of the closure of the motorway network or even minor congestion issues which will be far more frequent.

The monitoring of the routes being undertaken is predicated entirely on 'normal' traffic conditions whereby monitoring cameras are proposed understandably in Sapcote, but also in relatively distant villages of Pailton, Wolvey and Monks Kirby where 'normal' modelling has flagged sensitivity.

We are concerned that a very likely route from the proposed development is to Magna Park on the A5. It is clear that the 'normal' route would be via the M69 to the A5 at junction 1. However, any minor congestion at the M69 Junction 1/A5 could encourage a route through Burbage taking the B4669 West to Burbage, turning through the village on the B578 and joining the A5 to the East of the M69/A5 junction. This route has no current or proposed weight restrictions for HGVs and only discouraged with the label 'Prohibited route'.

The management of 'Prohibited Routes' being;

- An information campaign, to **'avoid these routes'**
- Leaflets **'to guide'** drivers
- Regular engagement

We are strongly of the opinion that HGV enforcement cameras are additionally essential to monitor traffic leaving the site west bound on the B4669 Sapcote Road, such camera will protect all routes accessed from this direction.

David Bill MBE
Chairman Burbage Parish Council