

Having attended the previous and most recent Issue Specific Hearings I would like to make the following observations.

- 1) Whilst removing freight from the roads seems a good idea it is clearly not achievable in every location, particularly, as we have heard repeatedly throughout this process from both Highways and Leicestershire County Council, where the local roads have already reached capacity and are often at a standstill due to the intense concentration of warehouse development and local traffic in this area.
- 2) The Padge Hall Farm development will add even more traffic to the surrounding roads and there is no firm evidence that lowering the railway bridge over the A5 can be achieved in a reasonable time frame and the work will cause major disruption to rail and road traffic.
- 3) The rail line is not a main line and is a cross country rail link. The disruption caused by increased downtime of the barrier at Narborough will impact people trying to reach essential services such as doctors, schools and cause more pollution in an area already at high risk.
- 4) Smaller villages such as Elmesthorpe, Stoney Stanton, Sapcote and Burbage will suffer disproportionately from increased traffic, increased noise and pollution. In particular Elmesthorpe will become isolated from the surrounding countryside and Burbage Common jeopardising many peoples way of life particularly those with horses and or equestrian buisnesses.
- 5) The impact on Burbage Common will have far reaching long term effects - the location of the container storage and lorry park will increase noise and pollution, the proposed rail bridge virtually runs across the border of the Common and the link road alongside the cafe and play area. Unlike East Midlands Gateway the geography of the site means that little can be done by way of screening and noise bunds/barriers without causing an eyesore from all directions.

6) Public access to the countryside via the footpaths will be restricted and replaced with alternatives that are unattractive meaning that many people will drive to other locations to walk their dogs and exercise such as Fosse Meadows adding to the already busy roads or decide not to walk at all to the detriment of their long term health.

7) East Midlands Gateway is not yet fully operational and its location bypasses the rail difficulties round Leicester and Narborough. that this development presents, Dirft is planning to expand and already serves Magna Park, Northampton Gateway is not yet operational and can access Magna Park in under 30 minutes via the M1. There are already plenty of Rail freight terminals existing or being developed in this area as mentioned in my earlier statement.

This is an entirely unsuitable project for a rural area bordering directly on the historic Land Settlement area which has always been protected from inappropriate or excessive development by Blaby District Council and the well loved and used area of Burbage Common.