

Bill Cullen MBA (ISM), BA (Hons) MRTPI
Chief Executive



**Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council**

Please ask for Stuart Bray
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Our ref SB/SMC
Date 23 July 2024

By email : [REDACTED]@parliament.uk

Louise Haigh MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Minister

Firstly, I would like to express my congratulations on your recent appointment to government. I can imagine you have a lot on your desk already to consider and key policy matters to advance.

A key purpose of this communication is to draw to your attention the Hinckley Rail Freight proposal located just off J2 of the M69, on the border of Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council and Blaby District Council, in Leicestershire. This is a significant scheme on a 662,000 acre site, comprising 850,000 sq. metres of major logistics development and a new rail freight terminal. The application is being considered by PINs given its scale and is incredibly controversial locally, due to the potential significant environmental and transport impacts it brings. Communities in this part of southwest Leicestershire are united in their opposition to the plans. I have summarised the key points on concern on this proposal below:

- Lack of meaningful community engagement and consultation on the proposals
- Impact on Burbage Common and woods, which would have a devastating impact on the common and people's ability to enjoy the peaceful open space it provides
- The huge impact of the 30m high units proposed resulting in the loss of open countryside that separates our local village from the motorway, blighting the landscape forever
- The impact of the A47 link road proposed on the Green Wedge separating Hinckley/ Burbage from Barwell and Earl Shilton
- Major concerns over the traffic generated, gridlocking local roads at peak times and particularly on the A5
- The significant implications on the local highway network in the event of an incident on the M69
- No confidence in the delivery of the proposed sustainable transport strategy, particularly for connecting Hinckley, Barwell and Earl Shilton employees to the development.

I would make the point that this borough has, in recent years, worked effectively with the logistics sector and supported some major developments including DPD's major UK and international hubs accommodated on Hinckley Park and Sketchley Industrial Estates respectively, both of which are located on the A5, and also Aldi's national refrigeration centre at Nailstone.



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I would therefore like to invite you to the area to meet to discuss the proposals and also take the opportunity to showcase some of the exciting growth opportunities linked to Mira Technology Park and the new National Conservation and Science Centre at Twycross Zoo.

I look forward to hearing you.

Yours sincerely



Stuart Bray
Leader of the Council