Hinckley SRFI
Response from an Interested Party re The HNRFI Application
07 February 2025 16:18:02

Dear Secretary of State for Transport

I am vehemently opposed to the development of the HNRFI. I speak for many people I know in Burbage and Hinckley, who are of my age-group.

I attended a Public Consultation (poorly conducted by Tritax), received a Community circular leaflet from Tritax (concealed amongst junk mail), attended several of the open floor meetings, and have read many reports regarding progress. I am deeply concerned about the HNRFI proposal and the detrimental, catastrophic impact it will have on the area, not only for all residents who live within its proximity but also wild-life and nature. **I fear we are walking into a local Ecological Disaster.**

From much of what I've heard and read from Tritax I do not believe the development will become a Rail Freight Interchange at all. Tritax are a big box company, they plan warehouse units and I firmly believe that this site, if it is allowed to go ahead, will just become another huge warehouse development, served only by road. They have had several years of planning and the information they have presented, and continue to present, appears lacking in specifics and I feel this vagueness has been done deliberately to confuse people. During the Examination Stage much data and information was given at the very last minute, giving the Interested Parties little time to scrutinise. On several occasions Tritax representatives appeared to be dismissive of others who attempted to challenge them.

I am particularly concerned for those residents who live close to the train line in Hinckley. If the project goes ahead I understand that approximately 16 freight trains of some 700 metres in length will be thundering right through a residential town and in such close proximity to many people. They will be forced to suffer an increase in train noise and vibration which is likely to bring much misery for them.

Traffic problems have been endlessly discussed and the modelling to me still seems vague. Neither has the traffic data been agreed by Leicestershire County Council as yet. The impact of HGV lorries involved during the 8+ year construction phase alone will create huge amounts of constant noise, dust and light pollution. There will be roadworks will which cause disruption to the Hinckley area and the surrounding villages as well as on the M69, A5, A47 (where there is regular congestion whenever there is an accident). This will bring misery to thousands of local people – both commuters and residents.

Green Spaces such as our beloved Burbage Common and Woods are peaceful and clean spaces for families to enjoy – children can run and play freely; walkers, bird watchers, nature lovers go there to listen to and catch glimpses of the varied and wonderful wild-life. The proposed site is adjacent to Burbage Woods and Common and the mitigations planned by Tritax – a small buffer zone and high screening - are woefully inadequate in my opinion. The construction of this site will completely shatter the peace of this beautiful

green area – the high noise, light and dust pollution levels will inevitably drive out the more vulnerable species. NB: The bird-life nationally is in FREEFALL! Some 70% of the UK's 245 bird species are Red-listed (of highest concern because their numbers are severely declining) eg song thrush, jays, yellow-hammers, woodpeckers, owls, which are just a few that can be seen in Burbage Woods. They will disappear, driven out! We need to preserve such areas as Burbage Common and Woods to help reverse this decline.

As a custodian of this green and pleasant land I urge you, the Secretary of State for Transport, to reject this proposal in its entirety.

Yours sincerely

Sheila Ferriman (Mrs)