

20th November 2024

Rt Hon Louise Haigh PC MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Dear Secretary of State

PROPOSED HINCKLEY RAIL FREIGHT INTERCHANGE

I am writing to you on behalf of my Council concerning the proposed Hinckley Rail Freight Interchange. You are currently considering the report of the Examining Authority following the Examination in Public.

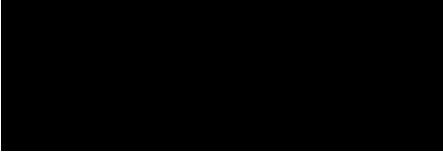
My Parish Council, which is one of those which would be adversely impacted were this proposal to be consented, welcomes your initial response to this proposal as set out in Gareth Keigh's letter of 10 September. We share the view, as set out in our representations to the Examination in Public, that the proposal fails to meet the requirements of the National Networks National Policy Statement and the adverse impacts would outweigh any benefits. We note one of the issues for your view relates to the adverse impact of the proposal on users of the Narborough Level crossing with ambulatory issues. We look forward to seeing, and commenting upon, the additional information that you have sought from the applicants in due course and hope that your final decision will be to refuse consent.

Whilst we accept that the increased number of minutes projected with the additional trains may only add minutes to the downtime at the Narborough level crossing, using the applicant's own figures, on a daily basis these still represent a significant percentage increase in the overall downtime which will mean an unacceptable increase in congestion and queue times through our village. We would encourage you to look again at this issue and add this to the reasons for refusal.

We believe it is invidious that the applicant has been able to hide behind a National Rail policy statement to the effect that no intervention is needed until a level crossing barrier is down in excess of 45 minutes in any hour when at Narborough traffic is perilously close to queuing onto the B4114, one of the main arterial road routes from Leicester towards Coventry with a downtime at peak periods of around half that. That seems ridiculous. We would encourage you to disregard the National Rail policy and make a judgement informed by the specific circumstances in this instance.

Copies of this letter go to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, given her overall responsibilities for the planning system, Alberto Costa MP, Gareth Leigh in your Department and the Chief Planning Officer of Blaby District Council.

Yours sincerely



Parish Clerk
Narborough Parish Council