

Chesterton Parish Council response to the Environmental Scoping Report submitted by OxSRFI for the proposed NSIP Strategic Railfreight Interchange at Ardley

Chesterton Parish Council is opposed to the proposal as it stands because there is no justifiable evidence supporting this development and no evidence that alternative sites have been considered. Also where is the evidence that another SRFI is required nationally? We understand that SRFIs are intended, in the main, to replace congested rail facilities in urban areas. Where is the evidence for a “strong market demand” for such a development?

We are especially concerned over the possibility of an increase in numbers of HGV movements to the site involving the B430 link to J9 which is already heavily impacted by existing HGVs choosing to take this route to J10 to avoid the inevitable hold ups at J9 which must be running at full capacity. We need greater clarity on the meaning of the statement that the development will “represent the planned and committed development and growth, ad infrastructure which already features in Local Plans and other documents or strategies!”

Already Chesterton and other local parishes are facing unacceptable increases in traffic movements locally due to the Inspector’s decision to allow the Great Wolf Waterpark & Entertainment Centre opposed by Cherwell District Council & 36 local Parishes.

We feel that the decision to submit the proposals for a Development Consent Order (DCO) directly to the Planning Inspectorate who will process the application is erroneous and in conflict with the localism concept instituted by Government. What constitutes a “Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project” such that it allows the District Council only to be consultees?

The proposal envisages a huge development with warehouses over 675,00 square metres which will continue the conversion of Greenfield sites to commercial development in this area. Light and noise pollution inevitably will follow such a development.

Finally, at this stage, Chesterton Parish Council will welcome the opportunity of being involved in the consultation phase and will welcome a detailed analysis of the projected traffic impact on local roads, given the decision to allow the immense Great Wolf Project which will generate excessive road traffic on the B430, A43 and other local roads already under considerable pressure as we can testify.