

Mark Sutton
Cabinet Member for Children & Young People
Councillor for Brewood Division
2 Staffordshire Place
Tipping Street, Stafford ST16 2DH
Telephone: (01785) 276111
E-mail: mark.sutton@staffordshire.gov.uk
Website: www.staffordshire.gov.uk

John Rhodes OBE
Director
Quod
Ingeni Buildings
17 Broadwick Street
London
W1F 0AX

My ref: MS-17/SS

Your Ref:

Date: 22 July 2016

Dear Mr Rhodes

Re: Proposed Strategic Rail Freight Interchange at Four Ashes, Consultation

I have reviewed the Stage 1 Consultation Documents and have engaged widely within the community in order to gather a range of views and to ascertain the key issues that are concerning residents.

I have subsequently sat with technical officers at Staffordshire County Council and Cllr Mark Winnington as the Cabinet Member for Economic Growth, to go through and convey this information in detail, and I am satisfied that this is reflected in the consultation response submitted (enclosed for ease of reference).

It is not necessary to reiterate the technical detail within this letter, however I wish to highlight the level of importance that the community place on the designation and purpose of the Greenbelt. Clearly, the community will wish to understand the need and exceptional circumstances that would warrant a large-scale, nationally significant proposal in such close proximity to our village settlements.

Another key issue is how the proposal fits within an overall national strategy for rail-based logistics and how the local transport concerns can be addressed. In my experience, the transport assessments that support such planning applications are very technical and can be difficult for non-specialists to engage with and often counter-intuitive to local knowledge and opinion.



I have given consideration to your published 'Mission Statement' and commitment to community interests and environmental considerations. I would like to take you up on this commitment and ask that you consider running a series of workshop sessions for those residents that wish to devote their time in getting to grips with this matter.

I would expect that technical officers at the County Council would also help facilitate such an approach. My offer in return would be to assist in identifying a suitable Chair to run these sessions effectively so that the technical advisors, officers and residents can use the time productively.

I look forward to your response once you have considered the consultation responses from the community and stakeholders in the round, however please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss this approach in more detail.

Yours sincerely



Mark Sutton
Cabinet Member for Children & Young People
Councillor for Brewood Division

Enc:

Consultation response from Staffordshire County Council comprising covering letter from Cllr Mark Winnington, Cabinet Member for Economic Growth and detailed technical response.

cc

County Council Divisions

Cllr Mark Winnington, Cabinet Member for Economy, Staffordshire CC

Cllr D Williams, Division Member for Penkridge, Staffordshire CC

Cllr M Lawrence & Cllr K Perry, Division Member for Cheslyn Hay, Essington and Great Wyrley, Staffordshire CC

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District Council Wards

Cllr R McCardle, Cabinet Member, South Staffordshire Council
Cllr J Bolton, Cllr D Holmes & Cllr W Sutton, Brewood and Coven Ward, SSC
Cllr L Emery & Cllr S Hollis, Cheslyn Hay North and Saredon Ward, SSC
Cllr R Cope & Cllr H Lobuczek, Featherstone and Shareshill Ward, SSC
Cllr J Ashley, & Cllr D Williams, Huntington and Hatherton Ward, SSC
Cllr L Bates, & Cllr I Ford, Penkridge North East and Acton Trussell Ward, SSC
Cllr C Raven, Cllr J Raven, Penkridge South East Ward, SSC
Cllr D Cartwright, Penkridge West, SSC
Cllr B Cox & Cllr R Wright, Wheaton Aston, Bishops Wood and Lapley Ward, SSC

Parish Council areas

Cllr L Tomkins, Brewood and Coven Parish Council
Cllr F Beardsmore, Featherstone & Brinsford Parish Council
Cllr M Willetts, Hatherton Parish Council
Cllr K Yardley, Hilton Parish Council
Cllr B Cox, Lapley, Stretton and Wheaton Aston Parish Council
Cllr C Stonehouse, Penkridge Parish Council
Cllr D Williams, Saredon Parish Council

MP Constituencies

Rt Hon Gavin Williamson MP for South Staffordshire constituency
Jeremy Lefroy MP for the Stafford constituency

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