

## What Is West Midlands Interchange & How Will It Effect You?

West Midlands Interchange is a massive development proposed to be built in Four Ashes/ Calf Heath & Gailey – which is mainly in the Penkridge Parish as well as Brewood and Calf Heath Parishes.

The development will not be considered by the South Staffordshire Planning Authority in Codsall. In fact, several applications for this development have been refused in the past as it breaks Green Belt Policy and their own Planning Policy for South Staffordshire. The developer is now trying a different approach in an attempt to get permission by making it much larger and adding a rail terminal, making it a 'strategic development'. Strategic developments are considered through a Government department known as the Planning Inspectorate. The application may be considered by the Secretary of State for Transport towards the end of 2017, although the process will take several months, if not years and probably involve Public Inquiries.

Please have a look at the attached plans; these plans will evolve over the next few months. This development is over 700 acres of Green Belt land - Note the proposed rail terminal is located just off A449 at Four Ashes

The developer has predicted 5000 HGVs per day coming in and out of the site, operating on a 24 hr/7 day basis. The developer has also predicted up to 8,500 jobs would be created. From past developments we can dispute the jobs figures as they never materialise. They are low grade, low paid warehouse jobs with many being re-deployment of existing employees with companies moving onto the site. Most warehouses are fully automated now so only require a basic amount of workers.

South Staffordshire has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country – around 1% - hence workers would have to be transported in from other areas. They would have to drive on our already very busy roads or use the train. The closest train station is Penkridge, there are no plans to create any other stations.

There are no current plans to improve the road infrastructure to cope with the extra traffic and 3 new traffic islands would be added slowing it even further.

There are already problems with potholes and the increased traffic would only add to this. As everyone who lives in the area knows, when there is a problem on the motorway which increasingly happens, all the traffic diverts onto the A5 and A449, the proximity to the M6 at junction 12 seems ideal until there is a problem... there is no where for the traffic to go. There are alternative sites that need re-development and have large unemployment levels that would be far more suitable. **Act now to have your say**, speak to your Parish, District and County Council about your concerns. Join our Community Group who are fighting to save the Green Belt; did you know there is only 13% of Green Belt left in this country? We are lucky enough to have some on our doorstep! If this development gets the go ahead there will be nothing to stop urban sprawl creeping over this whole area. Please check out the following:

Community Group fb page:  
Community Website:  
Community Group Contact:  
Developers website:

Stop the Gailey Freight Hub  
Stop the Gailey Freight Hub.org  
Saveourgreenbelt19@gmail.com  
www.westmidlandsinterchange.co.uk