

Stop the Gailey Freight Hub! And Save Our Greenbelt

What Is The West Midland Interchange [WMI Rail Freight Hub] And How Will It Affect You?

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

This development will not be considered by the District Planning Authority in Codsall. The developer is now trying a different approach in an attempt to get permission by making it much larger & adding a rail terminal, a 'Strategic development'. Strategic developments will be considered through a Government department known as the Planning Inspectorate. The application may be submitted towards the end of 2017, although the process may take several months if not years, and may involve a Public Inquiry.

This development is proposed to cover approximately 700 acres of Greenbelt land (around the size of the NEC). The present plans show the proposed rail terminal is located just off A449 at Four Ashes; these plans are soon to be updated.

IMPORTANT: The developer is about to hold stage 2 public consultations, it is important that as many residents as possible attend to get more information & updated plans. At the time of going to press the dates have not been confirmed by WMI but we anticipate these to be:

20 July	Haling Dene Penkridge	12 – 9pm
21 July	Calf Heath Village Hall	12 – 9pm
22 July	Coven Memorial Hall	12 – 9pm

The developer has predicted 5000 HGV's per day coming in & 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 basic amount of jobs in automated warehouses. Also most of the jobs would be redeployment of existing employees with companies moving onto the site.

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South Staffordshire has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country – around 1% - hence workers would have to be shipped 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 make any other stations.

As we go to press there are no plans to improve the road infrastructure to cope with the extra traffic and 3 new traffic islands would be added slowing it even further. As everyone who lives in this area knows, when there is a problem on the motorway, which increasingly happens, all the traffic will divert onto the A5 and A449.

There are alternative sites that could be redeveloped & have large unemployment levels that would be far more suitable. Act now to have your say, speak to your Parish, District & County Councillors & your MP about your concerns. Join our community group who are fighting to save the Greenbelt. 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.

Stop the Gailey Freight Hub campaign group will be present at all the consultation events, please come and talk to us.

For up-to-date information see the following facebook and web pages:

Community Group fb page:	Stop the Gailey Freight Hub
Community Website:	Stop the Gailey Freight Hub.org
Community Group Contact:	Saveourgreenbelt19@gmail.com
Developer's website:	www.westmidlandsinterchange.co.uk

Here is a map of the development area shaded in red, it covers a huge area.

