
Aldenham Parish Council



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Mr S Crudgington
Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Resources
Hertfordshire County Council
County Hall
Pegs Lane
Hertford
SG13 8DE

15 February 2023

Dear Mr Crudgington,

Strategic Rail Freight Interchange

I am writing on behalf of Aldenham Parish Council (APC) regarding the above. Members of the council were very concerned to hear of Herts County Council's proposals to sell the land upon which Helioslough wish to develop a strategic rail terminal.

APC strongly urge the panel, when it reviews this decision this month, not to sell the parcel of land known as the Old Radlett Aerodrome to SEGRO, for development into a Strategic Rail Freight Interchange.

APC recognise that the Aerodrome site, known colloquially as The Old Radlett Aerodrome, is in fact wholly within the Parish of St. Stephen. However, the effects of this development will be felt, within the parish, especially Radlett due to traffic movements from lorries servicing the terminal, and those working at the facility who may well be residents of Borehamwood who will access via the already congested roads of Radlett.

Also, the neighbouring parish of St Stephens will be affected especially those in Park Street. Due to a lack of infrastructure within the vicinity (there is only the A414) there will a knock-on effect to residents of St. Albans, Hatfield, Hemel Hempstead, Welwyn Garden City, Sandridge, Wheathampstead, & Redbourn will also be affected by the disruption caused by the increase in vehicular traffic, especially when problems occur on the M25 and M1, which they do frequently. The estimate of the developers was that there would be a further 3,000 lorries every 24 operating in and out of the site, onto already overcrowded roads.

The threat of this development has been hanging over the heads of the parish since 2006. Even then there were questions regarding the need for such a development. Surely, as so much time has lapsed since the decision was made by the Secretary of State there should be a strategic (excuse the pun) review. We now have other sites such as the London Gateway, the Interchange at Rugby and Derby. Unlike the point when the permission was granted the

position regarding the perceived benefits, after the opening of alternative facilities, and the effects of Brexit, are much diminished, so there is even less justification for sale.

The developers have not, as yet, complied with their commitment to set up a consultative group with local councillors, residents and community groups. They have not made any provision for improvements to the Park Street, Harper Lane and London Colney roundabouts. As stated at the time of the decision APC would prefer to see progress on a junction onto and off the M25.

Although this development was originally planned as a Rail Freight Interchange it is and has always been going to be a Lorry for Lorry interchange – evidenced by the huge increase in lorry movements predicted by the developers themselves. An enormous amount of work to reconstruct and alter the rail links has to be carried out before any of the freight trains can use the lines, work which they do not, as far as we are aware, have permission for.

APC are aware that Herts County Council has a fiduciary duty, due to its current budget deficit, to get the best price for the land, but APC's view is that this does not consider the long term effects on the residents of St Stephens and Aldenham Parish, their welfare. HertsCC surely has a duty of care, a duty of prudence and more and so APC urge the panel to take the whole into consideration.

I look forward to hearing from you soon,

Yours sincerely

Peter Evans
Council Manager

County Cllrs C Clapper, J Graham & M Bright.
Oliver Dowden MP for Hertsmere.

Members of the Panel

Marios Artemi – Con Welwyn
Lewis Cocking - Con Hoddesdon North
Ken Crofton - Con Herts
Bob Deering (Chairman) – Cons – East Herts
John Graham - Con Potters Bar
Steve Jarvis - LibDem Royston
Asif Khan - Labour North Watford
Paul Mason - Con Hoddesdon South
Adam Mitchell (Vice-Chairman) – Cons Broadwater (Stevenage)
Sally Symington - Libdem Tring
Paul Zukowskyj