

Litchborough Parish Council wishes to record its objection to the proposal to build a DHL Warehouse on the A5 near Towcester.

Residents across West Northamptonshire are extremely concerned about the county being turned into one large logistics park, with the consequent impact on our lives as more and more traffic takes to the county's roads.

Our main concerns are:

The traffic that will be generated by the site. There can be no doubt that the development, alongside the other proposed developments around the Tove roundabout, will have a huge impact on the local road network, which is already under pressure. This will result in increased congestion in and around Towcester (damaging local businesses) and local villages will increasingly be used as a rat-runs, risking accidents and increasing pollution. It is essential that the traffic consultation and monitoring is realistic and uses modelling that includes ALL potential developments.

Height of the proposed buildings. The proposal is just incongruous and totally out of keeping with an historic market town. It does not take into account the height of existing developments, all of which are considerably lower. To allow buildings at this height will negatively impact the visual approach into Towcester and they are far higher than anything which had previously been seen when the Local Plan was passed by SNC.

Environmental considerations. The increased traffic, HGV, LGV and high polluting cooler transport will severely impact the local air quality whilst noisy 24/7 cooling systems, light pollution and destruction of habitat will be hugely detrimental to local wildlife. In order to comply with the council's stated aims, there should be consideration given to the damage which will be caused to the local environment if this development goes ahead. We object to this development taking place on a Greenfield Site, on prime agricultural land.

Employment. Employment is essential for any town but this development does not offer the type or range of employment needed in Towcester, which has a highly educated workforce and extremely low levels of unemployment. The developers of junction 15 of the M1 have carried out extensive research, concluding that unemployment and appetite for warehousing jobs, is at its highest in the centre of Northampton. This means that people commuting to work will add to the traffic issues which this site will cause. We would prefer to attract jobs to our area that linked to the innovation derived from the Oxford-Cambridge Arc, perhaps building on the world-class engineering excellence at Silverstone i.e. providing highly skilled, highly paid employment.

Breach of Local Plan Policy

The proposed development contravenes, and is incompatible with, Policy AL1: LAND AT BELL PLANTATION TOWCESTER of the South Northamptonshire Part 2 Local Plan 2011-2019."

We cannot stress enough how much Towcester area local parishioners object to this proposed development, despite the fact they had such limited opportunities to view the development.

It is vital that there is detailed and extensive public consultation which permits local residents to express their objections.