

30 August 2017

I am writing to you as my local councillor to request that you add my concerns to those of others about the proposal to increase the size of Magna Park.

Such development should be going to an area of high low-skilled unemployment. As unemployment is so low in the area, it seems ridiculous to be considering bringing thousands of workers who will be on low wages to the area. They will not be able to afford high travel costs to work and will therefore have to find somewhere to live locally, requiring even more land to be given up to build them homes. As Councillors will then be aware, they will then have to find more schools for the children of these workers, they will also have to provide medical services and even old peoples homes for their elderly parents who may join them. Bringing thousands to an area to work will add considerably to the council's costs going forward just to put money in the pockets of those running large businesses. Is that what we voted for when we last chose our councillors? Surely Councillors are supposed to do their best for the people they represent and not for companies who will not improve the lives of the local people.

Air pollution will worsen and the council may well find itself having to spend more to clean this and look after the health of its voters. It may find itself fined for not reaching levels of clean air. There are many things that should be causing Councillors to reject the requests of those whose sole interest is to line their pockets. If we were crying out for work for the people of Lutterworth it would be a different matter but we are not and we do not want green space littered with more ugly buildings, our roads clogged with more lorries and our health threatened.

Please imagine these facts impacting on your lives and those of your families when you sit in your homes far from the Magna Park expansion.

If you do agree to the expansion, I hope that you will be able to sleep with a clear conscience at nights.

29th August 2017

I am writing to express my deep concern about the draft Local Plan currently being debated by Harborough District Council. It is in direct contradiction to policies already adopted by the Council:

Core strategy 2006 to 2028:

'No further phase of development or large scale expansion of the site, beyond the existing development footprint (to be defined in the Allocations DPD) will be supported'.

Draft Local Plan para 2.1:

'In 2031, Harborough District Council will be a vibrant, safe and prosperous District which retains its identity as a predominately rural area of villages and market towns where local communities enjoy a high quality of life. ...The diversity and quality of Harborough's countryside, natural and historic environment will have improved for the benefit of

residents and visitors. Air and water quality will have been improved while the impacts of noise and light pollution will have been minimised. There will be better access to the countryside and an improved range of open spaces for local people to enjoy'.

The plans submitted by Gazeley and DBSymmetry cannot but have a negative impact on the quality of life enjoyed by the communities most affected, on the natural and historic environment, on air and water quality and on noise and light pollution. The proposed project will bring little benefit to local businesses given that, with low levels of unemployment, the workforce will need to be provided from outside the immediate area. Plans for the widening of the A5 are totally inadequate and will do little to mitigate the increase in lorry traffic.

We are at a moment when there is huge uncertainty concerning the UK's trading relationship with Europe. This is not the time to be constructing yet more enormous warehouse developments and lorry parks. I fear that, if the Gazeley/DBSymmetry proposals are allowed to proceed, Harborough District Council will in future years be seen to have been responsible for the creation of an enormous white elephant and the destruction of the rural environment, all in the interests of big business in search of profit.

26 August 2017

Hello

I feel compelled to write to you regarding the expansion plans for Magna Park.

I am horrified to read of the proposed size of this already enormous site right on my doorstep, which will only create further traffic congestion and increased air pollution in what is supposed to be a rural area.

Of major concern to me however is the discrepancy between the Local Plan 2011-2031 and Harborough District Council's latest proposal.

There are a number of questions I would like answered:

- Why do we need 10,000 low paid, low skill jobs in the area given the low levels of unemployment?
- How will 10,000 similar jobs prevent out-commuting for work?
- How will the jobs created at Magna Park satisfy the need to create more jobs for higher skilled residents?
- How will the increased volumes of in-commuting made necessary by the creation of these jobs help to improve air quality?
- How would expanding Magna Park support the broad aims of the Local Plan e.g. improved air quality, protecting the countryside?

25th August 2017

I write to you to express, my utter disbelief as the recent decision made by HDC councillors agreed to recommend to the HDC Executive that the Local Plan 2011-2031 to allow additional development of up to 700,000 square metres for non-rail storage and distribution.

As a local resident, it is quite apparent that these decisions are being made without any thought or proper consideration relating to the valid objections put forward by objectors both online and at the public meetings in terms of traffic congestion in and around local villages where the road network is not sufficient to take large HGV vehicles taking a short cut to Magna Park, the A5 not being fit for purpose, pollution and the health of local people and the loss of open green space. Instead, money making schemes are put before anything else. I could go on, but it seems pointless as you will be aware of all of our concerns.

I know my email will have no effect on what will happen in and around our beautiful villages, but I thought I would have one last go at voicing my immense concern at what is being allowed to happen in the name of 'progress'.

26th August 2017

I wish to register my concerns over the future developments in my local rural area of Ullesthorpe in relation to the draft Local Plan 2011- 2031. The proposed expansion of Magna Park does not fit with the objectives for Harborough District as contained within the draft Local Plan 2011-2031.

The proposal to double the size of Magna Park contained in the two planning applications for Symmetry Park and Magna Park North is set to create 10,000 jobs with the vast majority being low paid and low skilled. At present, employers at Magna Park find difficulty infilling vacancies from the local area and are forced to go farther afield and outside the UK DIRFT is also expanding so employees with the same skill level will be competing for jobs there. The present unemployment statistics for Harborough District, Hinckley and Bosworth and Blaby are just 695 people. One of the targets for the Local Plan 2011-2031 is to "reduce out-commuting for work" which does not sit with the 10,000 positions to be filled.

Residents certainly will not benefit from a wider range of local skilled jobs as outlined in the Local Draft plan. There will not be more opportunities for Harborough's higher skilled residents as promised. Local residents stand to lose the most as they will be subject to the increased volumes of traffic from in-commuting with associated air pollution, light pollution and noise pollution. This is contrary to the statement in the draft Local Plan which states that the area will "retain its identity as a predominantly rural area of villages and market towns where local communities enjoy a high quality of life."

I therefore oppose the two planning applications Symmetry Park and Magna Park North as the developments are inconsistent with the vision and objectives for Harborough District as stated in the draft Local Plan 2011-2031.

12 August 2017

I understand that you will be discussing the local plan early next month.

I have read the proposal and strongly object to the plan in its current form. Employers already struggle to recruit staff locally due to the high number of low skilled jobs at Magna Park. Our road network is already over capacity, so I would appreciate if you could raise some very strong questions at this meeting.

- Why we need 10,000 low paid, low skill jobs in the area given the high levels of employment?
- How will 10,000 similar jobs prevent out-commuting for work?
- How will the jobs created at Magna Park satisfy the need to create more jobs for higher skilled residents?
- How will the increased volume of in-commuting made necessary by the creation of these jobs help to improve air quality?
- How would expanding Magna Park support the broad aims of the Local Plan?

I hope that you share my views, as our local councillor getting this plan changed should be your main focus. I would appreciate if you could confirm what you are doing to get the voice of local residents across to your colleagues. The plan has most effect on the Lutterworth area, yet our fate is decided by people in Harborough who's focus will be different, surely there should be a local plan for the Lutterworth area.

I look forward to your reply and any suggestions on other steps I could take.

29th August 2017

I am shocked and horrified that Harborough District Council's proposed new local plan, includes allocating more land around Lutterworth, to the distribution industry, when Lutterworth already has very poor air quality, mainly due to the huge amount of traffic generated by Magna Park.

Diesel is proved to be carcinogenic, and have links to many other diseases, as well as increasing the risk of miscarriages, so generating more traffic, will further jeopardise the health of local residents. How then can HDC meet its Core Strategy aims to make the district a safer place, and improve Lutterworth's air quality, if it sanctions more distribution centres to be built in this area?

I urge the Council to reconsider their new plan, and to remember that Lutterworth is in Leicestershire, which purports to be the heart of rural England, so should have clean pure air.

29th August 2017

I write to request you to question the contradictions regarding distribution/logistic requirements in the Draft Local Plan. It is an unlikely coincidence that the areas of need quoted match those in the IDI Gazeley & DBSymmetry outline planning applications. (Planning applications 15/00865/OUT & 15/01531/OUT).

The local plan includes such statements as:

Statements from the draft Local Plan 2011-2031

1. "in 2031 Harborough District will..... retain its identity as a predominantly rural area of villages and market towns where local communities enjoy a high quality of life". How can this be if the IDI Gazeley application will cover many hectares of productive farmland, displace nature & virtually join Lutterworth to Bittesby, Ullesthorpe & Claybrooke Parva?
2. "residents will benefit from a wider range of local skilled jobs....." How, when these developments offer very few skilled jobs?
3. "the diversity and quality of Harborough's countryside, natural and historic environment will have improved for the benefit of residents and visitors." How, if you build on it? It will be of no improvement to the communities affected by it. Why is so much concentrated development in Harborough being 'dumped' in the area of Lutterworth & surrounding villages? Development including logistic parks, concentrations of Gypsy/Traveller sites etc.
4. "air and water quality will have been improved while the impacts of noise and light pollution will have been minimized." How, if the logistic developments are close to villages, road led, encouraging inward commuting & not materially reducing outward commuting?
5. One of the objectives of the Local Plan 2011-2031 is to "reduce out-commuting for work". How will this happen if majority of jobs are low skill?
6. A key issue to be addressed by the Local Plan is "redressing the balance between Harborough resident and workplace earnings and the District's commuting dependency, providing a breadth of employment alternatives, including more opportunities for Harborough's higher skilled residents". Where & how is this illustrated in the Draft Local Plan?
 - Why do we need 10,000 low paid, low skill jobs in the area given the high levels of employment? (Miniscule numbers unemployed).
 - How will 10,000 similar – almost certainly incoming - jobs prevent out-commuting for work?
 - How will the jobs created at Magna Park satisfy the need to create more jobs for higher skilled residents?
 - How will the increased volume of in-commuting made necessary by the creation of these jobs help to improve air quality?

- How would expanding Magna Park & adding DBSymmetry support the broad aims of the Local Plan?

Expansion of Magna Park & addition of DBSymmetry is inconsistent with the vision and objectives for Harborough District as stated in the draft Local Plan 2011-2031 and does not reflect the wishes of residents.

25th August 2017

I would like to register my objection to the expansion at Magna Park that is being discussed in September.

It will alter the rural environment. It is not going to bring the jobs that are needed but instead it will increase the Council budget demands and demand for affordable homes. It will not help the current residents of Harborough.

The traffic and pollution will increase. A small park is not going to balance that.

21st August 2017

I am writing to you regarding my concerns after hearing that Harborough District Council are in the process of producing a new Local Plan to replace the Core Strategy of 2011.

I have heard that the major proposal within the current draft of the Local Plan of 2011-2031 considers employment in our district and that job vacancies are best provided by the further development of new warehouse distribution sites.

The current proposal I am disgusted to find is to allow a further 700,000 square meters around Magna Park, which just so happens to be equivalent to both the DB Symmetry application 15/00865OUT of 279,000sq mtrs and the IDI Gazeley application to the North 15/01531/OUT of 433,000 sq mtrs. Are we to now assume that these proposals are now both to be accepted should this new plan go through?

Though these developments may create up to 10,000 new jobs a vast majority of these would be of a low paid, low skilled nature. The unemployment for Harborough District is low with only 100 people according to Job Seekers figures looking for employment. Hinckley & Bosworth and Blaby add up to a further 595. Leicester City at 2690 and Rugby 2300 which are the nearest towns would still not fill the 10,000 new jobs proposed. In my opinion employers will struggle to fill vacancies and would need to draw workers from further areas within and outside of the UK. How can this "reduce out-commuting for work" as stated in the draft Local Plan? These proposed developments would also be in competition with the expansion at DIRFT also recruiting workers with the same skills.

The Local draft plan has also stated that this will improve air, water and noise quality which realistically I just can't comprehend, I think it is very reasonable to expect that the main A5 will become busier and though some alterations have been suggested they certainly will not reduce the amount of extra pollution from tyre wear and exhaust fumes produced.

I am particularly troubled that my family will be subjected to both copious amounts of fumes and noise being situated on the edge of IDI Gazeley proposed development, especially if a roundabout is situated just metres from our house. A recent report has been published stating Air pollution is being blamed for soaring numbers of non-smokers who are developing lung cancer. Doctors at leading cancer centres in London are warning that high levels of pollution are causing a spike in cases of lung cancer. They say, if the trend continues, the number of lung cancer deaths among non-smokers will overtake those who smoke within a decade. According to The Times, there are more than 46,000 new cases of lung cancer every year in the UK and Cancer research groups have identified particles of soot in the air as being a carcinogen – something that causes cancer which is giving me great reason for concern.

Regarding the noise pollution I currently have video footage taken on the 6th of July not 100 metres from our house on which one can clearly hear the beepers from vehicles operating at Magna Park. Should the proposals be accepted and the expansion take place can you imagine if we can hear that now how any sound barriers could make the noise acceptable to residents nearby? The draft plan states "Harborough District will retain its identity as a predominately rural area of villages and market towns where local communities enjoy a high quality of life" This certainly will not improve ours being one of the closest residents. It also states "Harborough's countryside will have improved for the benefit of residents and visitors" We currently live in that countryside in which I walk twice daily and in my opinion nothing within this development will further enhance its current beauty or accessibility.

I hope you can help our voice be heard and I hope you can put forward the points which I have raised.

20th August 2017

The current draft of the Local Plan 2011-2031 includes a proposal on employment that jobs in the district should be provided through the development of more warehouse distribution sites. The current proposal is to allow the building of 700,000 square meters around Magna Park.

I do not believe that we need 10,000 low paid, low skills jobs in the area due to the very low unemployment.

The development is contrary to other sections of the draft 2011- 2031 Local Plan which state:

"the diversity and quality of Harborough's countryside, natural and historic environment will have improved for the benefit of residents and visitors." and "air and water quality will have been improved while the impacts of noise and light pollution will have been minimised."

as it will reduce the area of countryside, obliterate the historic site of Bittesby village, lead to increased traffic (and air quality) on the A5 and surrounding roads and increase noise and light pollution from the site.

As my representative, please make your voice heard and vote against the proposals to increase the size of Magna Park.

24th August 2017

Re Harborough District Draft Local Plan

I am not happy with the new current draft of the Local Plan. I feel that they're adopting the attitude that if they can't get what they want easily [acceptance of the enlarging of Magna Park] they'll move the goal posts, by allowing the 700,000 square metres needed for it go ahead!

Regardless of the fact that the majority of the jobs created there would be lower paid and for lower skilled workers, how would these jobs be filled?

The total number of unemployed within local commuting area is under 700 I understand, so to fill these vacancies, employees would have to travel from much further afield i.e. Rugby and Coventry.

With the competition of many similar warehousing areas closer to those areas and with the DIRFT complex expanding, Magna Park would find it difficult to fill those vacancies. They're already finding it difficult to fill the job vacancies they have now.

Surely common sense tells one that this draft plan cannot be allowed to pass as it is. If the expansion of Magna Park is allowed to go ahead, the light pollution and air quality must deteriorate, contrary to the local plan.

Yes, the A5 is to be updated, but what about all the roads feeding it? There is already far too much congestion at junction's close to Magna Park.

I hope therefore you will vote against the acceptance of this ill thought out draft of the Local Plan .

18th August 2017

I am writing to you to register my concern that the draft Local Plan includes a proposal for further massive expansion at Magna Park - i.e. expansion beyond the original aerodrome site and Phase 1 development by IDI Gazeley which has already been approved. This is a complete reversal of the Core Strategy 2006-2028 and - based on what I have heard - there appears no longer to be any serious attempt to balance different types of employment within the area, nor to preserve the character of the landscape and the quality of life for residents.

The arguments against further expansion on this scale are well established:

- 1) There is no shortage of local jobs of the type likely to arise from these developments.

Emails Received expressing concerns about Magna Park and Policy BE2

- 2) The jobs provided will not be of the right quality to prevent local people commuting away from the area.
- 3) Thousands of mostly low-paid workers will have to commute into the area, with all the congestion and pollution that this causes.
- 4) The site is not at or near a rail-head, which is the government preferred means of transporting goods.
- 5) Large increases in HGV traffic, congestion and pollution will arise, which will only be partly relieved by the planned road improvements.
- 6) The proposed development is grossly out-of-scale with Lutterworth and surrounding villages and will destroy any remaining rural aspects of this one-pleasant region of Leicestershire.
- 7) The expansion to the north would impose on an historical site of national importance and would diminish and degrade its setting.
- 8) Loss of amenity of rural landscape and resulting impact on wildlife.

I hope that it is not yet too late to influence the Local Plan and to remove the ill-judged inclusion of further development at Magna Park.