

Mrs Anne Main MP
St Albans



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

21 October 2019

Dear Secretary of State

I am writing to you regarding the proposed Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (SRFI) at Radlett. The plan for the SRFI seems to have become moribund, in as much that no details are being passed on to Hertfordshire County Council and my constituents are being kept in the dark as to when the company promoting this site will give them information about the impact it will have on our area.

This proposal is almost unanimously opposed by residents in my constituency. As I have said before on many occasions, it is a dreadful use of this land that will cause nothing but pollution and disruption to road and rail travellers.

It seems even more unacceptable that, as we are desperately trying to build more affordable homes for people in areas like St Albans, a huge site will be taken up with a noisy, outdated and undesirable SRFI that will bring no benefit to my constituents.

I have pressed Ministers for years about this site and we are still no clearer on how the SRFI could be workable. There is no clarity on tunnel upgrades, pathing for the trains and the inevitable impact this will have on commuter journeys on the line. Further, the site will have a major impact on our roads. The number of lorries that will be accessing the SRFI will add to the congestion my constituents regularly have to endure.

Tel: 020 7219 8270
Email: maina@parliament.uk

Mrs Anne Main MP
St Albans



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

There are no green initiatives associated with this development. Its workforce will be heavily car-dependent and, importantly, it is the legacy of the previous Labour government that had a desire to 'doughnut' London with large rail freight sites.

The reality is, most of these sites are now used as lorry-based sites for companies such as Amazon. It is worth stressing, this site is woefully inadequate as a 'strategic' rail freight site. It has no motorway access, its heavily car-dependent through village roads and it is located very close to residential areas.

I hope that, under this new Government, there will be a rethink about this plan and what the best use of this land would be. I am now clear that I believe the planning decision for this site should be rescinded.

Proposals have been made in the draft St Albans Local Plan to use this site for more housing, schools and public services for residents. This is a far more desirable use of this land if it is to be taken out of the Green Belt.

I believe that the Government must now act in the interests of the people living around this site by rescinding the SRFI planning application and promoting this site for housing.

I would be pleased to meet with you to discuss my concerns further.

Thank you in advance.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anne Main'.

Anne Main MP

Tel: 020 7219 8270
Email: maina@parliament.uk