

Dear Sirs

The very fact that both the previous applications were refused should surely indicate that there are valid objections to an “Open Logistics Facility” being based, not only in a Countryside Protection Zone, but also right next to a very busy junction of a motorway. These applications were fully considered by members of the Planning Committee at the Local Authority: people who are familiar with the area who would know the problems which would arise if this proposal were to go ahead.

The site itself is far from being suitable for industrial purposes for a number of reasons. When the dual carriageway, A120 East, was built, it was no doubt envisaged that the old A120 (now the B1256) would become a “minor” road. However, because of the rapid development of Takeley and other villages, the B1256 is still a very busy road. Queueing traffic at Junction of the M11 extends back a considerable distance much of the day, especially between 7am and 9am. The number of extra “movements of large vehicles from “Wren Kitchens” – 400 every 24 hours has been posited - would exacerbate the situation to an excessive degree. Added to this is the fact that whenever the access to Junction is limited – as it is at present – there is a constant stream of traffic through Great Hallingbury on what is essentially a village road with hardly any pavements. Deep pot-holes are constantly appearing these days already, and the thought of the type of transport used by “Wren Kitchens” adding their contribution is frightening. The increased noise and air pollution from an industrial site to an area already having to endure this from being under the flight path of Stansted Airport would, no doubt, affect the physical and mental health of many people in Great Hallingbury and nearby villages.

It could be argued that the objections of local residents are merely a case of NIMBYISM – but what should, and must, be taken into consideration is that this is primarily a residential and, indeed, rural area which is ill-suited to having a 24/7 industrial operation so closely-situated.

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