

The Secretary of State for Transport
Highways Agency
Major Projects Directorate
Woodlands
Manton Lane
Manton Industrial Estate
Bedford MK41 7LW

G2 PUBLIC INQUIRY STATEMENT OF CASE STANSTED G2 AIRPORT ACCESS FROM M11 & A120

The Secretary of State for Transport has made a preferred route announcement for airport access from the M11 and A120. The Highways Agency has produced a draft scheme and orders for the compulsory purchase of land in connection with Airport Access from M11 and A120.

INTRODUCTION:

The Parish of Takeley consists of approximately 1200 dwellings and a further 850 homes being built on the Priors Green Development. The existing population of 2500 will probably double. Takeley is the nearest settlement of size to the airport. The community is positioned no more than 1500-2000 metres in a south easterly direction from existing and proposed airport facilities. There are no structures or buildings between the airport and the village. Takeley Parish Council represents the parishioners of Takeley and owns land at Molehill Green (village green & common land).

OBJECTIONS:

The Parish Council opposes plans to expand Stansted Airport to include a second runway and believes that the proposal is fundamentally flawed.

- The proposals do not adequately contribute to Government policy.
- Lessons have not been learned from past under-forecasting and under investment
- The proposal fails to recognise the magnitude of the surface access challenge
- This proposal should not be in isolation of any development strategy for the M11 (yet to be defined)
- TPC disputes current policy for no development north of junction 8
- TPC objects to the proposed elevated roundabouts and slip roads that will create additional visual intrusion, pollution and additional noise for Takeley residents. All junction options submitted for public consultation entailed the construction of elevated roundabouts and slip roads to take traffic over the M11 or A120. The elevation would increase visual and noise intrusion for Birchanger, Burton End and Stansted Mountfitchet in the case of Junction 8b and for Takeley and its hamlets in the case of the A120, yet no alternative design options for inverted junctions, with underpasses beneath, rather than bridges above, the primary carriageway, were consulted upon.
- The proposal should promote and include cycle ways. There are currently none. The existing M11 junction 8 fails to provide for cyclists.
- The effect on the surrounding road network has not been adequately assessed/evidenced.

- The potential consequences are unacceptable (impact on climate change, air quality, loss of cultural heritage and amenity, effects on landscape, ecological and nature conservation, traffic noise and vibration, impact on public rights of way, impact on drainage and water supply)

- The environmental assessment appears to be based on unrealistic assumptions
- Cumulative impacts have not been properly assessed/evidenced
- Major risks have not been identified or evaluated (road capacity, project funding)
- The information provided is inadequate
- Other options have not been fairly evaluated

Takeley Parish Council intends to give oral evidence at the inquiry which has been acknowledged by the Inspector. As a 'major participant' the Council wishes to reserve the right to cross examine Highways Agency witnesses at the inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Heskey
Clerk to Takeley Parish Council
Phone: 020 8270 1149
Email: Takeley.pc@ntlworld.com