

Rt. Hon. Grant Shapps MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Great Minster House,
33 Horseferry Rd,
London
SW1P 4DR

13 December 2021

Dear Secretary of State,

Proposed Motorway Service Area on land at new Junction 5A M42, Solihull Road, Hampton in Arden, Solihull, West Midlands

I write with reference to the above mentioned proposal for a new Motorway Service Area which has been the subject of a recently concluded Public Inquiry into the refusal of planning permission by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council on the grounds of incursion into the Green Belt. There are two competing applications to build Motorway Service Areas on the M42 between Junctions 4 and 6 both of which were refused planning permission by the Local Planning Authority. The Planning Appeal reference is APP/Q4625/W/21/3275290 and a decision is expected imminently. There is, however, a transport problem which is not being considered by the Planning Inspector.

The Motorway Service Area at the planned new Junction 5a of the M42 as part of the M42 Junction 6 Improvement Scheme, currently underway, requires a change from the current Dynamic Hard Shoulder arrangement to All-Lane Running. The present Dynamic Hard Shoulder system seems to work very well on this very busy stretch of motorway with the hard shoulder only being used when reduced speeds are applied. We strongly recommend that this arrangement is maintained if the appeal is successful.

Following the recent report on Smart Motorways from the Transport Select Committee asking for a review of All-Lane Running motorways because of safety worries, the Parish Council is greatly concerned that granting of planning permission for this Motorway Service Area will mean converting the present system to All-Lane Running without any further consideration by National Highways or your Department.

In view of this we would ask that you consult with the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to ensure that he is aware of these transport implications when taking any decisions which adversely affect the safety of the M42.

The concern of the local community has been expressed by the attached petition which currently has 1060 signatures supporting Solihull Council's refusal of planning permission.

Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council

We would very much appreciate your very urgent review of this matter.

Yours sincerely,



pp

Cllr Mike Blomer MBE
Chairman
Hampton in Arden Parish Council

Cc

Rt. Hon. Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
Saqib Bhatti MBE, MP for Meriden.

Cllr. R Sleigh OBE, SMBC

Cllr. A Rolf, SMBC

Cllr. J Ryan, SMBC

Cllr. A Mackiewicz, SMBC

Cllr R. Grinsell, SMBC

Mark Andrews, Head of Planning, SMBC

All H in A Parish Councillors

Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council

Clerk : Mrs. Julie Barnes, Parish Office, Marsh Lane, Hampton-in-Arden, Solihull, West Midlands B92 0AH

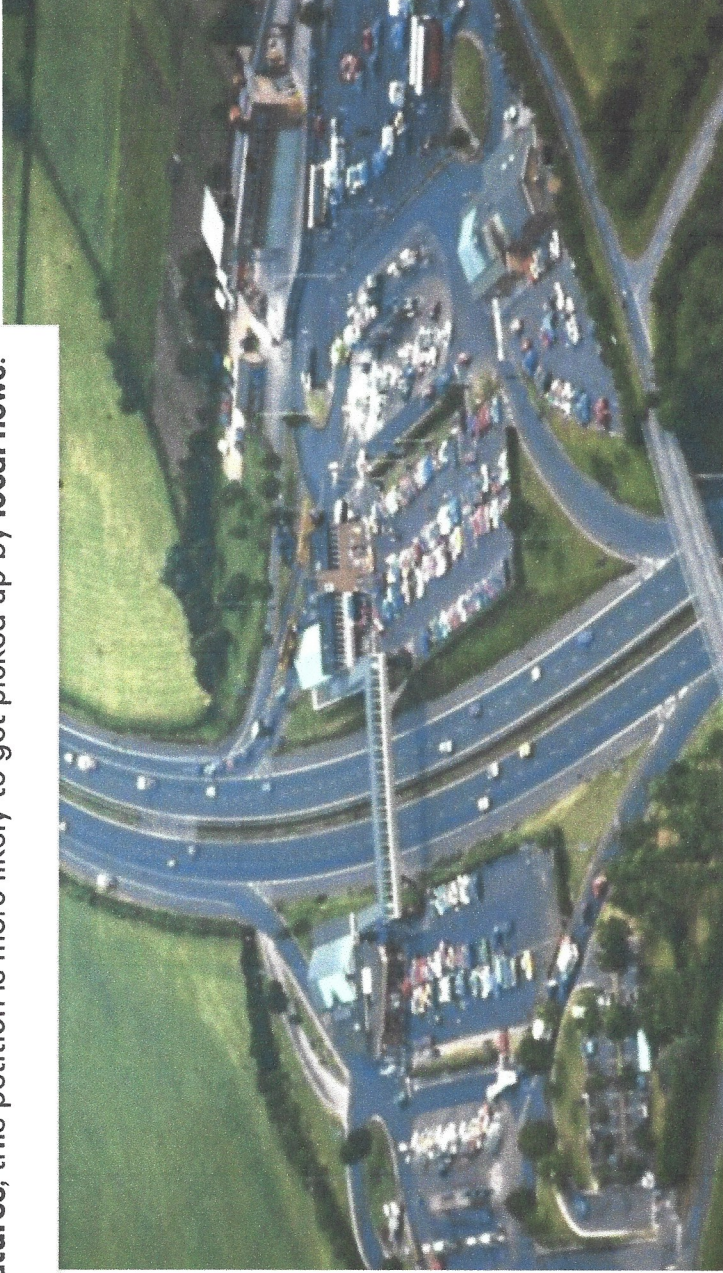
Tel: 01675 442017

www.hamptoninarden.org.uk

clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk



At 1,500 signatures, this petition is more likely to get picked up by local news!



STOP the Motorway Service Area between Catherine de Barnes and Hampton in Arden

1,060 have signed. Let's get to 1,500!



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