

Doc 7.
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In the wrong place.

The proposed site is planned for land in the open countryside which does not have any infrastructure to support it, not enough workforce locally, wholly inadequate public transport, narrow country roads with no footpath, no cycle lanes and no street lighting. The same narrow country roads used by pedestrians, runners, cyclists, horses with their riders and other vehicles. The loss to local wildlife would be disastrous. The loss of open countryside equally so. There must be a more suitable sites to build a super prison, perhaps a brownfield site near a well populated area, less destruction of nature and jobs where they are needed, what happened to the Governments "levelling up" agenda. The starting salary of a prison officer is around £30,000 p.a., that salary looks a lot better in the North of the country than say London. The unemployment rate in Market Harborough is at the lower end of the table, so any potential workforce will be forced to travel to work outside the area by car. **Have the MOJ looked at brown field sites ?**

MOJ

Hundreds of local people objected to the planning application via HDC's planning portal, with the vast majority opposed at a subsequent planning committee meeting, the plan was unanimously rejected by council planning officers. Despite this, the MOJ have decided, at great expense to the public purse, to appeal this local democratic decision.

A theme of the "levelling up" agenda is Devolution, Empowering local leaders, does this apply to the MOJ.

Many of the documents submitted in the MOJs planning applications are at best inaccurate, traffic surveys carried out during COVID lock down restrictions, surveys during peak holiday times etc.

One of the transport reports states that the local roads and junctions are well within capacity, I don't think that is correct, an extra 1000 vehicles (twice a day) are estimated during the construction phase that must have an impact on local roads.

Another report states there is no record of any accidents on Gallow Field Road..... Not true, I am aware of nine accidents in the last four years:-

- Winter 2019 8 Wheeler tipper lorry leaves road and sinks up to its axles in farmland.
- Spring 2019 Van with horsebox crashes through fence at Leicestershire showground.
- Summer 2019 Motorbike crashes into field
- Summer 2019 Motorbike crashes and police close road
- Autumn 2019 Motorbike crashes into my neighbours car (writing off both vehicles).
- November 2021 Ambulance overturns on bend.
- January 2022 Car fails to stop at Foxton Road junction crashes through hedgerow and gets stuck in field next to Foxton primary school (three days to recover vehicle)
- July 2022 Car crashes avoiding a dog and crashes into road signs on Stuart Crescent.

8th July 2022 Car crashes into B.T. Green cabinet leaving locals without phone or broadband for two weeks.

Will the MOJ carry out a more accurate transport assessment ?

Country Roads

During the construction phase there will be hundreds of construction vehicles arriving and departing daily, at the height of construction up to one thousand contractors and their vehicles plus construction machinery will enter the site via the A4303 in Lubenham on to Foxton Road. There is a pedestrian island in the middle of the road that will make it difficult for construction traffic to safely navigate the junction. These roads at points are so narrow that two HGV construction vehicles will not be able to pass each other without one of them having to mount a grass verge. The upkeep of the roads falls to Leicestershire County Council who recently announced cuts of £28 million to their budget. **Will the MOJ pay for road repairs ?**

Employment

The MOJ have 5 prisons within a 21 mile radius of Market Harborough which include: Gartree, Leicester, Stocken, Wellingborough and Glen Parva. Two of these prisons are the so called "super prisons" one of which is not open yet and the other is partially open and I am aware they have staff shortages at most, if not all, of these prisons. With such local competition for prison staff, where are you going to find 800 staff to run it?

Where will the MOJ find the staff needed ?

Strain on services

All our local services are already at full stretch. If the proposed plans go ahead it will add over 2000 people, when operational and 800 staff to add, to the local waiting list for medical and emergency services.

What are MOJ plans assist with this increased burden on the local community ?

I am aware the local sewerage facility is already at full capacity. The upgrade in infrastructure is huge and costly.

Will the MOJ pay for this ?

Wildlife

Regardless of living next to a prison, I have always enjoyed the countryside and its wildlife that surrounds me. I walk daily past the proposed site and enjoy the wildlife and views across open countryside and it fills me with dread that this may disappear.

Having read the Bat Roost survey and bat activity report I am surprised to say the least that for a site as large as this the surveys carried out were only on the three buildings on the south side of the prison but not the old training centre, bachelor quarters, any residential properties, and four trees on Welland Avenue, I have counted over eighty trees on the site, doesn't seem like a thorough survey to me. As you may know I live on Stuart Crescent, I have bats living, (and have done for nearly 30 years), in a tiled area

between a ground floor and first floor window as indeed do two of my neighbours so three houses out of nine have bats living in them, when you consider that there are 76 houses on Welland Avenue there must be more bats roosting in those houses, sadly the surveyors have not contacted residents with regard to bat activity in the area.

Another consideration is the timing of the bat surveys, May and June 2021, these two months the female of the species are busy searching for a nursery site or giving birth so may not be as active as in other months. Also in these reports, it says in mitigation that trees will be planted which won't be habitable for 30 years. The installation of at least 20 bat boxes is insufficient.

Will the MOJ Commission a new bat survey to get a true reflection of the bat population and include all trees and buildings in the area