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Kirby Hill,  
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YO51 9BQ

25 AUG 2017

RECEIVED

Mike Parkes, Esq.,  
Principal Planning Officer,  
Harrogate Borough Council.

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>. August 2017

Ref:- Planning Application 6.47.52.D.EIMAJ /: 17/03414/EIAMAJ.

Vale of York MSA ( Kirby Hill MSA.

Dear Mr. Parkes,

I am writing to you and through you the Chair and Members of HBC Planning Committee to object in the strongest possible terms to this application, on the following grounds:-

The proposed development is on prime Grade 1 agricultural land and is part of arguably the largest single tract of such land in Yorkshire. This land is essential to the future viability of farming in this country and to our Government's declared policy of becoming increasingly more self-sufficient in food production .

The A1 motorway is of course a vital transport artery, and is accepted as such by the local community , but experience proves that motorways run most smoothly when as few junctions as possible exist; junctions mean hold ups and congestion. Why is this relevant ?

An MSA exists near Wetherby in Harrogate District. The existing HBC Plan, in saved policy T7 states that there should only be one MSA in the Harrogate District. That policy is still relevant and applicable.

After the third application for an MSA at Kirby Hill was rejected by both the Government Inspector and the Secretary of State, the Secretary of State recommended that the existing Services at Leeming Bar should be the preferred site for an MSA when the relevant section of the A1 trunk road was upgraded to Motorway, This work is now almost finished, and planning permission now exists for an MSA at Leeming Bar – a brownfield site, and as such preferable to desecrating fine agricultural land and destroying a magnificent rural vista of the Vale of York. Leeming Bar is 28 miles from Wetherby, and thus within Government guidelines for spacing of MSAs.

The A168, running as it does alongside the A1M for many miles, was designed to take local traffic and also to expedite deliveries to and from businesses, farms and communities along its length, being accessed by a very limited number of junctions from the A1M . At Kirby Hill roundabout the A168 joins with the Ripon/Boroughbridge road B6265. The proposed MSA, with its plans to alter the A168 geography and extra roundabout , along with a delivery and staff access from the B6265 almost opposite an existing well used junction ( and- incidentally- something of an accident black spot) will lead to undesirable and dangerous traffic congestion, and greatly interfere with the normal traffic using these roads.

This or any proposed Motorway Services Area would have a truly devastating impact not only on the lives of the residents of Kirby Hill with Milby but on Boroughbridge, Aldborough, Minskip, Langthorpe, Marton le Moor, Norton le Clay, Skelton on Ure and Dishforth in terms of disruption of access to their communities both during and after construction, light, noise and visual pollution.

These are all essentially rural communities, even the small town of Boroughbridge- part of the great appeal to tourists and would- be residents of the magnificent Vale of York and in particular the District and Borough of Harrogate- and must continue to be so without the " benefit" of an unwanted and unnecessary Motorway Services Area.

One final point, and a rather noisome one; the existing sewage system from Kirby Hill runs down into Boroughbridge, thence through the lower end of the town into Aldborough Ings to the sewage treatment plant in the Ings near Aldborough. This system has been rightly deemed inadequate and unfit for purpose for at least 40 years and when the Ings are flooded, the station also floods and sewage backs up into Boroughbridge. Apparently Yorkshire Water have no plans to update the system, which continues to be overloaded even more by the increasing numbers of houses being built in its catchment area. The system cannot possibly cope with having the effluent of an MSA fed into it, thus creating an even greater health hazard.

NO MSA, please !

Yours sincerely,

A solid red rectangular box used to redact the signature of Elizabeth Ann Craggs.

Elizabeth Ann Craggs ( Mrs).