

24 May 2019

PRESS RELEASE

Standing up for Hertfordshire's Countryside

CPRE Herts objects to M25 Motorway Service Station

CPRE Hertfordshire has considered and objected to a major proposed Motorway Service Station in the Hertfordshire Green Belt south of Kings Langley. The location of this scheme will bring further congestion to often grid - locked roads around Junction 20 and includes the unwarranted provision of 1000 car parking spaces and an 80-bed hotel on a Green Belt site that can be seen from miles around. Public policy calls for motorway service stations to be sited between junctions. This one would be at the junction.

Kevin FitzGerald, Hon Director of CPRE Hertfordshire, says the proposal fundamentally is inappropriate development in the Green Belt and very special circumstances to warrant an exception to Green Belt policy are simply not demonstrated. This sprawling scheme of buildings and 24-hour car parking on this elevated site will have appalling lighting and landscape impacts. There is an alternative option being consulted on between J16 and J17 of the M25 which could better meet a gap in provision between existing services at Cobham and South Mimms. That option is one between junctions, provision which better accords with national transport advice.

This Junction 20 proposal would compete with and undermine businesses in local towns. It is in the wrong place, both in terms of being located at the junction and because it is too close to the service station at the A1/M25 junction and too far away from the service station at Cobham. New development proposals around Kings Langley will only add to the use of the congested roads such as the A4251 around the junction. It must not get the go-ahead.

Notes to Editors

1. CPRE Hertfordshire is the County Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England. CPRE fights for a better future for the English countryside. We work locally and nationally to protect, shape and enhance a beautiful, thriving countryside for everyone to value and enjoy. Our members are united in their love for England's landscapes and rural communities, and stand up for the countryside, so it can continue to sustain, enchant and inspire future generations. Founded in 1926, President: Emma Bridgewater, Patron: Her Majesty The Queen. www.cpre.org.uk.
2. CPRE Hertfordshire was founded in 1928 and is a separate registered charity. Locally, we: strive to protect the countryside from harm, working through the planning system and raising the alarm when countryside is threatened; support local communities and campaigns to protect valued local areas; advocate the sustainable use of land and other natural resources; influence planning policies to ensure that they reflect the interests of the countryside; campaign for a quieter countryside, free from litter and other intrusions; Lobby for sustainable transport policies and safer rural roads; celebrate Hertfordshire's countryside by promoting its beautiful landscapes; support village life; encourage people of all ages to take an interest in and enjoy their local countryside; Promote local food production. Our President is Sir Simon Bowes Lyon, KCVO. www.cpreherts.org.uk