



The countryside charity
Nottinghamshire

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23 May 2021

Ms Ruth Edwards MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Ms Edwards

East Midlands Freeport

I am writing to you as both one of your constituents and as Chair of Campaign to Protect Rural England Nottinghamshire.

CPRE Nottinghamshire has received a number of expressions of concern from our members and others about the possible impact of the freeport proposals on greenbelt land and on airport noise. I know that colleagues in Derbyshire are also concerned about the possible impact on the area around Etwall.

I do appreciate that you are a keen supporter of the bid for the East Midlands Freeport, and we should congratulate you on your part in achieving the success of this bid. Of course, we understand that the intent of the bid is to bring jobs and increased prosperity to the East Midlands. While it is not for CPRE to comment on the likely economic efficacy of such proposals, I should emphasise that CPRE is certainly not opposed to appropriate economic growth in the right places. I think it is fair to say that most people in our county do not yet understand what the Freeport will involve, what it means, how it will work, nor what impact it may have on the area. We hope that there will soon be available greater clarity and detail on such matters and that you will use your influence to provide information and transparency to the public domain.

We have received questions from our members and others locally about the actual physical footprint of the Freeport sites, and, from those close to the flightpaths, the potential increase in cargo flights. There is wide concern that the Freeport may involve expansion of the airport site and the Ratcliffe power station site. Would it be possible to provide a precise map showing the actual proposed boundaries of the sites, please?

President: Mr Liell Francklin Deputy Lieutenant Nottinghamshire

Charity 213481

As one might expect, the management at East Midlands Airport are strongly in favour of the Freeport, presumably a potential for increased cargo flights. We have been asked whether there are any estimates of the expected increase of flights and their timings. Local residents are concerned about airport flight noise, particularly at night. The project is promoted as a 'Green Growth Freeport Bid'. We hope that East Midlands Airport will live up to this green agenda, and ensure any flights are as quiet as possible. The aviation industry say that modern aircraft are less noisy, but the air freight industry is extremely slow to deploy modern aircraft - new aircraft families such as Dreamliner are not built as freighters for many years after their introduction, and many freighters are actually time-expired converted passenger planes. We need East Midlands Airport to progressively phase out older, noisier aircraft, and to voluntarily place a lower limit on night noise than the legal limit applied by NWLDC. Could we ask you to press airport management on both these aspects of noise control? And would it be possible for the group of local MPs who supported the Freeport bid to collectively make representations to the airport?

As you are well aware, plans for the Ratcliffe on Soar Power Station site, which is due to close in 2025, include the Uniper proposals to replaced it with a zero-carbon technology and energy hub. We understand these proposals will be a huge development on what is at present a greenfield site outside the brownfield power station footprint. We know that there is great concern amongst the local parish councillors about these proposals and wonder what assurances you can give about minimising the impact on greenfield and greenbelt land in particular.

Yours sincerely

Frederick Cook
Chair CPRE Nottinghamshire