

From: Neil Middleton (APTU) [mailto:neil.middleton@aptu.org.uk]
Sent: 22 September 2009 00:05
To: 'aptu@aptu.org.uk'
Subject: FW: Emailing: The Herts Advertiser - Helioslough defiant over St Albans rail freight scheme.htm

Dear all

A quick email on this subject:

1. Information about a meeting hosted by the St Albans Civic Society
2. Should APTU comment / object to the plans?
3. Other useful links

Meeting

Larry Heyman from FCC will be talking about the Helioslough Rail Freight Depot at the St Albans Civic Society on Wednesday (see below and Herts Advertiser [article](#)). All are welcome, and I hope to go. It is from 8pm at the [Cross Street Centre](#) (corner of Cross Street and Upper Dagnall Street, St Albans AL3 5EE).

Should APTU Comment?

Any comments have to be submitted by the end of the month. The Committee's view is that we should restrict be expressing concerns - but only focus on capacity and disruption during the build phase - ie any reduction in FCC's ability to deliver a service to us. Other issues such as green belt, impact on Park Street, whether or not there should be a direct connection with the M25 are not relevant to us as an organisation. I think we should also be prepared to provide quotes for FCC's submission (always assuming we agree with it!).

We are interested in your views - please can you let us have them on or before Saturday 26 September.

Other useful links

- <http://www.hertsad.co.uk/content/herts/rail/>
- St Albans Council: <http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/planning/railfreight/default.aspx> (in their paper at [http://stalbands.moderngov.co.uk/Published/C00000169/M00006174/\\$\\$\\$Minutes.doc.pdf](http://stalbands.moderngov.co.uk/Published/C00000169/M00006174/$$$Minutes.doc.pdf) only reason 6 is relevant to us)
- Helioslough's project web site: <http://www.northorbitalsrfi.co.uk/>

Regards

Neil Middleton

From:
Sent: 19 September 2009 10:22
To: Neil Middleton (APTU);
Subject: Emailing: The Herts Advertiser - Helioslough defiant over St Albans rail freight scheme.htm

Helioslough defiant over St Albans rail freight scheme

09:15 - 11 September 2009

HELIOSLOUGH, the company which wants to build the rail freight depot at Park Street, will argue that there are no grounds to reconsider the 14 reasons for refusal at the pre-inquiry meeting. The company maintains that the grounds for refusal - which include its Green Belt location - were comprehensively considered at the 2007 public inquiry into the first proposal for a rail freight depot on the former Radlett Airfield. Its reason for taking such a stand is that the then Secretary of State, Hazel Blears, ruled that had Helioslough demonstrated that there were no other suitable sites for a rail freight depot in London and the South East, she would "almost certainly" have felt that was sufficient to outweigh the Green Belt and other issues of harm to the district. As a result, Helioslough intends to ask the inspector at the pre-inquiry hearing in mid September not to rehear evidence about matters on which, they say, a conclusion has already been reached and there has been no material change of circumstances since. Consequently Helioslough has only given very brief comments on each of the 14 grounds for refusal in their grounds of appeal. It argues that the only issue to be addressed with regard to the Green Belt issue is the new alternative sites assessment. And in response to the council's complaint in its fourth reason for refusal that the alternative sites study is inadequate, Helioslough maintain that no more suitable locations are available in either the South East Plan, the London Plan or anywhere else in the region. The council's fifth reason for rejecting the scheme - that the proposed development is premature in advance of a national policy statement in 2010 - is countered by the argument that prematurity was addressed at the last inquiry and refusing the application of those grounds would lead to a substantial delay in providing further strategic rail freight interchanges in London and the south east. Helioslough is also arguing that there is no reason to reopen the issues of rail paths for freight trains entering the site, saying that both the Inspector at the previous inquiry and the Secretary of State concluded that it was no reason to refuse the application. **Larry Heyman, integration and partnership manager for train company First Capital Connect, is the guest speaker at the next meeting of St Albans Civic Society on Wednesday, September 23. He will be talking on the Thameslink Programme and the threat from the proposed Rail Freight Interchange from 8pm at the Cross Street Centre in Dagnall Street, St Albans. The meeting is open to all.**
