

From: Sally Wilkey [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 February 2025 20:39
To: Planning Comments North <PlanningCommentsNorth@somerset.gov.uk>
Cc: Cllr Alan Bradford [REDACTED] Cllr Bill Revans
[REDACTED]
Subject: Application No: 37/24/00099

Good Morning

I refer to the above Planning Application for the Welcome Break Service Station adjacent to J24 M5.

I have looked at the amended plans and will reiterate comments I made on the application some years ago when the original proposal was first submitted.

The existing service station on the west side of the motorway adjacent to J24 is rated the second worst motorway service station in the country, however, it doesn't seem to stop people using it, creating gridlock through North Petherton, and towards Bridgwater, with traffic backing up on the Northbound and Southbound exit slip roads, from about Easter through to September, on Thursdays through to Sundays.

Building, or substituting another service station, which presumably will be a much nicer venue, will just move the problem by a few metres, and likely increase the pressure on J24 and surrounding roads.

Bill Revans is our local Councillor and also the Leader of Somerset Council and Alan Bradford also a local councillor, I am sure will corroborate what I am saying.

Trying to join the roundabout at J24 from Huntworth Lane can be very challenging in a car at any time of the year, as the visibility is very limited when trying to mix with vehicles accelerating to join the motorway southbound, and vehicles decelerating as they exit the southbound carriageway. So HGV vehicles, coaches and cars towing caravans etc. would find it even more challenging, trying to access the roundabout leading to frustration and potentially accidents.

These issues are accentuated when there are problems on the motorway or the A38 and there seem to be many occasions when the surrounding roads along with Bridgwater are brought to a standstill.

I notice on the plan that the existing access to lower Huntworth Lane is to be blocked to traffic to the west of Freshwinds, this would mean that those of us that live in Huntworth Lane, or the villages of Huntworth, and Moorland will be adding to the congestion on the interchange instead of being able to

avoid it as we can at the moment. It will also add to our fuel consumption, thus increasing pollution in the area.

Also, as far as I can tell, there is no improved provision for pedestrians, specifically to cross the Motorway junction. Anyone who has to negotiate this junction as a pedestrian, will tell you how difficult it can be to judge when it is safe to cross. This development is likely to increase the volume of traffic on junction 24, thus making it even more hazardous for pedestrians. It appears that cyclists are not very well catered for either.

To lessen the environmental impact, it would make more sense to expand Sedgemoor Services and Taunton Deane Services, both of which have dedicated exit and entry onto the M5. In any case, there is also a new service area at junction 23.

Keep the agricultural land for growing food

I have lived in Huntworth Lane for 27 years, and have experienced the above issues as a motorist, and a pedestrian, and feel this development is ill conceived and should be completely rejected.

S J Wilkey (Mrs)