

STOPKIG.org

The Campaign to **STOP** the Kent International Gateway Development

Mr Steve Clarke
Principal Planning Officer
Maidstone Borough Council
Maidstone House
King Street
Maidstone
Kent ME15 6JQ

5th August 2009

Dear Mr Clarke,

Ref: Planning Application 07/2092 Kent International Gateway


We note the revised proposals which include: reductions in size of some buildings; assertions that there will be a reduction in traffic movements and employment; changes to landscaping; and the provision of laybys and an overnight truck stop. We assume that the applicant intends to suggest that the scheme is less harmful as a result of these amendments.

We entirely dispute that these changes make any significant difference to the massive harm that this scheme will cause to the community and the environment. The fundamental case against KIG is completely unchanged by these revisions. In summary this is that the development will certainly cause massive (local) harm, but will not achieve the claimed benefit (for the nation) of moving freight from road to rail.

Despite the fact that the application has been in progress for two years, there remain significant deficiencies in the technical information provided especially in relation to highways matters and parking. In addition, the requirement to read supplementary documents alongside the previous submissions appears to be intended to make it very difficult for third parties to understand the detail of the proposal. The revised application continues the pattern of the submission of a vast amount of confusing documentation which contrasts starkly with the paucity of information about how the claimed benefit of moving freight from road to rail will be achieved. Indeed, the applicant still does not even attempt to offer any evidence to support the assertion at the heart of its case that the existence of KIG will result in a reduction (of 60m/48m) HGV km travelled.

Our conclusion is that the revised application is just one more example of the applicants attempt to use a flood of confusing information to conceal the fundamental weakness of its core argument.

Yours sincerely,



ALAN THOMAS
CHAIRMAN

C/O Detling Post Office, Detling, Nr. Maidstone, Kent ME14 3JT
Telephone 01622-621077 Email: info@stopkig.org