

**Bromsgrove District Council
Planning Committee**

**Committee Updates
23 June 2025**

25/00529/S73 Land at Whitford Road, Bromsgrove

Additional comments received from The Bromsgrove Society 18 June 2025

Members are encouraged to read the full version of this representation via Public Access.

- The Bromsgrove Society conducted Fox Lane queue length surveys during the morning peak period on Wednesday 11 June 2025 and Wednesday 18 June 2025.
- On both dates the rear of the traffic queue was photographed at 5 minute intervals between 7:55am and 9:10am. The measurement tool in Google Maps was used to determine the length of the queue recorded in each photograph.
- The purpose of the surveys was to determine if the queue lengths observed by the applicant on 11 September 2024 approximate to current queue lengths.

Conclusion

- The length of the queues observed in May 2015 by BDC's expert witness to the first Whitford Road planning inquiry and the queues observed by The Bromsgrove Society on 11 and 18 June 2025 can be regarded as being representative of those typically experienced by the local community over the past decade.
- The reduced level of queuing in Fox Lane observed by the Applicant on 11 September 2024 can most likely be attributed to drivers taking note of the Traffic Bromsgrove bulletin of 8th September 2024 advising the local community of temporary traffic lights in Fox Lane and choosing an alternative route or shifting to an active travel mode on that day.
- Consequently, in order to make an appropriate and safe evidence based decision, it appears to The Bromsgrove Society that Decision Makers must rely on the WCC consultation response dated 2 October 2024, this being their most recent opinion of the impact of varying Condition 25 based upon their own May 2017 traffic survey data.
- The final paragraph of the 2 October 2024 WCC consultation response states;
- ***"The Highway Authority has undertaken a robust assessment of the application. Based on analysis of the information provided, the Highway Authority advises the application is REFUSED on the grounds that the residual cumulative impacts of the development on the road network would be SEVERE contrary to paragraph 115 of the National Planning Policy Framework (December 2023)"*** (Bromsgrove Society emphasis)
- It should be noted that the equivalent paragraph is now numbered as being 116 in the December 2024 update of the National Planning Policy Framework.

24/00960/FUL Land off Illey Lane, Hunnington

The Local Planning Authority has been copied into a letter dated 22 June 2025, which is a request to the Secretary of State (SoS) for an EIA Screening Direction under Regulation 5(6) of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.

A copy of this letter is included as Appendix A attached to this update.

Your Officers have taken advice from the Council's legal team. The legal advice is that it would be sensible to await the outcome of this further EIA Screening Opinion request before planning application 24/00960/FUL is determined.

Officers will therefore be recommending to Planning Committee that this item is deferred from Planning Committee on Monday 23 June until the next available Planning Committee meeting

following the issuing of an EIA Screening Direction by the Secretary of State in respect of planning application 24/00960/FUL for the installation of a 60-container Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure at Illey Lane, Hunnington.

Revised Recommendation:

That agenda item 6 is deferred from the Planning Committee meeting on Monday 23 June until the next available Planning Committee meeting following the issuing of an EIA Screening Direction by the Secretary of State in respect of planning application 24/00960/FUL for the installation of a 60-container Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure at Illey Lane, Hunnington.