



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**10<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

## **Slade Green councillors welcome freight terminal refusal**

Bexley Labour councillors representing Slade Green have warmly welcomed the announcement that the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has refused to give permission for the Howbury Rail Freight terminal. The councillors had supported local residents for a number of years to demonstrate that the proposals would have been disastrous for residents in Slade Green, the local environment and wildlife and impacted on train services in Bexley.

Slade Green and Northend ward councillors, Cllr. Stef Borella and Cllr. Brenda Langstead spoke passionately against the proposals at both Bexley's planning committee in 2017, and at the Government appointed planning inquiry in 2018 raising their concerns with the plans.

The proposals for a major freight terminal generating major lorry and train movements onto a green belt site was approved by Bexley's conservative controlled planning committee in 2017 despite opposition from the ward councillors and local residents. However, with part of the site lying in Dartford who then refused the proposal, the Secretary of State had to call in and determine the proposal as part of the applicant's appeal.

Cllr. Stef Borella said " This is victory for residents in Slade Green and Bexley who would of been affected by the damage to wildlife and the impact it would of had on local train services with commuter services being cut to accommodate freight trains."

Cllr. Brenda Langstead said "Residents in Slade Green will no longer have the threat of increased traffic along the Northend Road and damage to the quality of life for residents now that the proposals have been refused. The Secretary of State has rightly overruled Bexley's Conservative dominated planning committee who had approved this enormous development in the green belt."

The councillors have also placed on record their thanks to members of the Slade Green community forum, local residents and wildlife groups in fighting the proposals.

**-ENDS-**

### **Notes to editors**

Although the Secretary of State has refused permission, the developer can still request a judicial review of this decision. The full decision of the Planning Inspector can be found at:

<https://bit.ly/307pnV3>

- For further information, please contact Cllr Stef Borella.