

Information Sheet prepared by the STOP! Alliance for TVBC Councillors

Comparisons and Questions: Andover MEGAsHed v Lichfield MEGAsHed

FACTS re: Andover Airfield MEGAsHed (based on information currently available)

- *Size:* Unit 4: 870,000 sq feet / 77,700 sq metres
- *Shed Type:* Cross-docked (goods in on one side / goods out on the other side)
- *Goods to be handled:* not yet confirmed (frozen, chilled, dry, white goods)
- *Method of despatch:* probably 'wave' system (ie., up to 150 HGVs despatched simultaneously)
- *No of loading bays (docks):* 150 in / 150 out
- *No of times each loading bay used each day:* Tesco/Goodman say c.5.5 turns per day
- *No of stores served:* 218 in Southern England – at present & growing annually
- *Operating times:* 24 hours, all day/all night, 7 days a week, 364 days/year
- *No of HGVs serving the site every 24 hours:* **minimum of 1,660**, with over 3,300 HGV movements
- *No of staff:* projected to be 900 over 3 shifts (change over times 6am, 2pm and 10pm)
- *Peak rates of light vehicles (ie., staff & service):* am - 772 / pm - 705
- *Peak daily hours:* 8:00am – 10:00am & 3:00 – 4:00pm
- *Busiest days of the week:* Thursday/Friday (based on experience elsewhere)
- *Busiest time of the year:* Christmas (based on experience elsewhere)

QUESTIONS re: Lichfield

Size & Operations

1. What is the sq m/sq footage of the Lichfield Shed? _____
2. How many loading bays does it have? _____
3. Is it cross-docked? _____
4. Is the Shed working to full capacity? _____
5. If not yet at full capacity, when will it be? _____

6. How many Tesco HGVs use Shed each 24 hours? _____
7. How many other vehicles deliver into the Shed each 24 hours? _____
8. How many stores does it serve? _____
9. What are the peak hours? _____
10. What are the peak days? _____
11. What are the busiest times of the year? _____
12. Is a 'Wave' system operated to manage outbound distribution? _____
13. If not, what system is used? _____
14. What kind of goods are handled here? _____
15. Has the operation or goods handled changed since opening? _____

16. Is a '15 minute delivery window' system operated? _____
17. Where do delivery vehicles park while waiting their 'turn' or after delivery
(Remember: drivers hours are limited & recorded by tachometers)?

18. What 'livery' is used by the Tesco HGVs? Are they 'branded' or just white?

19. Are routes controlled that are used by:
 - a. Tesco HGVs ? _____
 - b. Delivery vehicles ? _____
 - c. Staff vehicles? _____
20. If yes, how is this done – and is it recorded/monitored? _____

21. Are incentives given to drivers to reduce mileage and increase fuel
efficiency? _____

Staff & shifts

22. How many staff work at the Shed over how many shifts?

23. How many are senior/management staff? _____
24. What is the proportion of male to female staff? _____
25. What percentage are agency / non-permanent staff? _____
26. What percentage is migrant (ie., non-local) staff? _____

28. When the Shed opened how many staff transferred from other Tesco sites?

29. What positions were taken by transferred staff? _____
30. Are the drivers Tesco employees, or is this contracted out to a freighting company (e.g., Stobarts)? If yes, why? _____
31. Are many 'Shed' staff on holiday now? _____
30. Are many drivers on holiday now? _____

Environmental Impact

31. How many complaints are received in any given week from neighbours re: noise, pollution, light? _____
32. How has the site been designed and operated to reduce environmental impact? Do these measures work? _____

33. Are the lights in the loading and parking areas on all night? _____

34. How are deliveries in and out managed if there is congestion on the connecting roads? _____

Fire & Safety

35. How many accidents are recorded each month – on the site and with drivers on the road? _____
36. What types of accidents occur? _____

37. How many accidents have occurred since opening the site? _____
38. Bearing in mind the recent Shed fire in Warwickshire & more locally to us at Appleshaw (see notes below), how has the Shed been designed to reduce/contain fires? _____
39. What fire prevention measures are in place & visible?

40. Is the Shed divided with Fire Breaks / does it have sprinklers?

41. How close are the nearest residential properties?

42. Is there sufficient water readily available for fighting a huge fire? _____

43. Is the fire brigade able to get easy access to the building in the peak hours?

44. Have any changes be made to the design/operation in the light of the Warwickshire tragedy?

Background Information.

Cost or profit centre for Tesco?

Sheds like this do not generate revenue per se – rather they contribute to Tesco's distribution overheads. The whole focus of the operation is on maximum efficiency (something Tesco are exceptionally good at). Levels of automation are high, staff numbers low, and costs are kept to a minimum, with contracts as flexible as possible to match the seasonal nature of the trade. Over time the objective is to maximise usage and turnaround time.

So whilst **current** Distribution Industry Standards would suggest that each docking bay handles 5.5 vehicles per day, or – for Andover - 3,300 vehicle movements per day, we should expect that this will only increase over time.

Cross Docking:- a relatively new logistics technique now in common use in the retail and freight/distribution industries to rapidly consolidate shipments from disparate sources and realise economies of scale in outbound transportation.

The idea is to minimise storage and transfer incoming shipments directly to outgoing trailers.

In a traditional warehouse goods are received from vendors and stored in devices like pallet racks or shelving. When a customer (e.g., the consumer or perhaps a retail outlet) requests an item, workers *pick* it from the shelves and send it to the destination.

In a cross dock, goods arriving from the vendor *already* have a customer assigned, so workers need only move the shipment from the inbound trailer to an outbound trailer bound for the appropriate destination. The nature of the operation is about quick turnaround and requires minimal internal structure – hence issues around Fire Safety need to be carefully considered.

In practice, operations require staging areas where inbound materials are sorted, consolidated, and stored until the outbound shipment is complete and ready to ship. This means that a number of consignments can be 'in preparation' per bay at any one time.

This has the potential to generate 'waves' or convoys of lorries leaving in rapid succession which would create significant loading on any new roundabout at the 100 Acre site, the A303 and the surrounding roads.

Fire Risk:

Appleshaw Fire: On 12 December 2007, approximately 120 Fire and Rescue personnel attended from Hampshire Fire & Rescue attended a 9000Mtr2 incident in Appleshaw (the MEGA shed would be nearly 9 times bigger..)

This was a building 135 metres by 65 metres with 50% of the building affected. Tackling this fire needed 18 pumping appliances and other specialist vehicles, drawn from as far afield as Eastleigh, Lyndhurst and Basingstoke, together with 6 Water Carriers. IF there was an incident at the proposed MEGAshed how would Hants Fire & Rescue cope?