

## Written submission from Alec Bray – Supporter

My family and I support the application for the Lidl store for Tadley.

I note that there are Newsletters from AWE on a regular basis telling us how their focus is on community working. However when there are major planning applications to improve the community we always hear that the main objection/restrictions are due to AWE,

This Lidl store is for the town of Tadley – in Hampshire – and it benefits the people of Tadley. It is an accident of geography that the location of the proposed store is in West Berkshire, and I note that the store will not benefit communities in West Berkshire (such as Aldermaston) to anything like the extent that it affects the nearby community, which is Tadley. It is unfortunate that a decision which affects a major community is being decided by a planning group divorced from the area principally affected.

It is about time that AWE stood up and supported local development to improve the heart of Tadley community, especially as many employees of AWE are local residents. I would urge all councillors on this committee to understand what this application means to this town.

1. There is a pressing need to boost the economy of Tadley.
2. There is a need to provide more job opportunities for local residents .
3. Currently there is very little competition for Sainsbury's: while there are a number of small neighbourhood "grocery" stores, there is no nearby provider of a similar range of commodities to a major Supermarket. Essentially, Sainsbury's have a monopoly in Tadley . There are a number of consequences of this: in the main, it means that various groups – especially those disadvantaged by mobility problems, no independent transport, or on low incomes end up paying more for their shopping.
4. Currently a lot of residents decide to shop further afield (for example, in Basingstoke or Newbury) and this in turn reduces the amount of time those people spend shopping locally: this in turn affects other local businesses in Tadley.
5. There is also the issue of environmental impact and increased carbon emissions if people are having to travel further.
6. Currently Tadley has a population equivalent to a small town, but because of its piecemeal growth – to support AWE, we note - it does not have a town centre and there are not the right facilities to support this. By having a Lidl in Tadley, there may be a general increase in footfall through the town, which in turn may lead to the creation of a better community hub and increase the number of businesses locally who might be attracted to the town.

In this context, it should be noted that it is expected that future town developments will focus on health and wellbeing. This includes being able to walk to local facilities such as supermarkets. The Lidl development will support this by allowing people to stay local, by having another supermarket to walk to: this will increase exercise and promote improved health and well-being.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.