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22 June 2020

Dear Members,

Lidl Foodstore Application, Tadley - Application Ref No - 19/01063/COMIND

I am writing in support of Lidl's foodstore planning application, as outlined above.

Having read the agenda notes and attended the meeting of the Eastern Area Planning Committee meeting on 4 December 2019, my observations as a local resident are listed below, and I would ask that this letter be shared at the upcoming District Planning Meeting on Wednesday 8 July 2020.

I've outlined my observations below, supporting Lidl's application:

- There is an exceptional need for an additional supermarket in the Tadley area with over 90 per cent of local residents being in favour of this application.
- The site is well-served by a very frequent bus route and is only 200 metres from the town centre, is opposite two banks and is close to housing, making it an ideal location for customers arriving by foot, bicycle, bus or car.
- The proposed store would offer much needed retail choice to residents in Tadley. Currently, Tadley has only one major supermarket, and if COVID-19 has taught us anything, it is the need for better access to foodstores in the local area. At present visits to alternative Discount foodstores by residents of Tadley and the surrounding villages, means travel to Basingstoke, Newbury or Reading, which usually involves longer car journeys.
- At a time of uncertainty, with high unemployment expected, can we really turn down the willingness of a major supermarket to invest in the local area, bringing with it much needed local employment and improved choice and competition?
- I would suggest that the proposed site is seen by many as part of Tadley town centre and offers no public access or recreational benefits. It is on busy main roads and surrounded by buildings, one side being residential and the other two sides being industrial. There are many alternative local "green lung" areas in and around Tadley which do have excellent public access. Conversely, suitable brownfield locations within a short distance of the town centre are very limited and are not so conveniently placed.

- With regard to any public safety issues concerning the proximity of AWE I would suggest that the same issues could be faced by the many local housing estates, commercial and retail sites, which are also close to AWE in Tadley. In fact, some existing buildings are even closer to AWE. I would hope that with the cooperation from all parties involved that any safety concerns could be satisfactorily addressed and uniformly applied to the area.

I would appreciate please, if you could take these observations into account in reaching your decision on Lidl's foodstore application. I do hope that planning permission will be granted as the proposed development has massive public support and brings with it a number of positive benefits to the local residents of Tadley and the surrounding areas.

Yours sincerely

Allan Follett