

Written submission from Margaret Lightbody - Supporter

To the Planning Committee deciding the fate of a Lidl's store in Tadley

With the final decision of a Lidl's store in Tadley being made on July 8th 2020 as a long-term resident of the town I am asking that permission is granted for the store.

Tadley lies on the fringes of two different counties. The actual site of the store is within yards of Hampshire yet the fate of the store with West Berks Council. Many residents of Tadley are very much in favour of the shop with a tiny minority opposed. Surely our views should count for something?

One of the stumbling blocks is apparently the extra traffic caused to the town. Compared with Reading or Basingstoke Tadley has no traffic problems to speak of. The frequent back-up of vehicles queuing at the traffic lights could probably be solved by moving the bus stop. I would suggest that due to COVID-19 the traffic heading to AWE alone is much reduced in the future with more people working from home. Another is the lack of a bunker should there be an "incident" at AWE. Could anyone tell us which businesses currently operating fairly close to the Site have their own bunker?

The crux of the matter is that for me the building of a Lidl's store in Tadley would provide choice. We do not run a car so the only large supermarket we can use is Sainsbury. We are still shielding due to COVID so cannot even use the buses to get into town. With further outbreaks not ruled out it would mean no freedom of choice for us for the foreseeable future. What a boon for people like us having a Lidl's shop in the town would have been at the start of lockdown.

Please pass the planning application for a Lidl's store in Tadley. We desperately need something other than just houses built in the area.