About the application

Application number: 2020/93308	
What is the application for?:	Erection of foodstore (Use Class E) with associated parking, servicing areas and
Address of the site or building:	Former Spotted Cow Pub, New Hey Road, Huddersfield, HD3 4BU
Postcode:	

User comments

Type of comment: A supporting comment

Dear Sirs

I write you on behalf of my wife and myself to speak passionately in favour of this application.

Let me make it absolutely clear -
, we want to express our wish for the planning application to be granted so we can have a Lidl supermarket

We feel so strongly about this matter that I also intend to speak at the planning meeting if/when it is arranged – please advise me as soon as you know when the meeting will take place.

The Lindley area itself has been the epicentre of massive housing development over the last few years which has been delivered without any accompanying significant investment in the additional community infrastructure required to support such a sudden uplift in population. We are already a ward with a huge infrastructure deficit and with no plans to realign the balance. If the alternative proposal for this Lidl site was to build new community facilities, such as schools, health centres, community centres, swimming baths etc we might perhaps feel different, but to many of us who live in the environment directly around this site, a supermarket is vastly more preferable to yet more modern housing estates.

Over the last few years, Lindley has already had to accommodate a hugely disproportionate increase in the number of new houses being built compared to other areas of Kirklees. The loss of potential future housing on the site is approximately 0.1% of the total required in Kirklees, and we believe that truly minor impact is far outweighed by the value provided to Lindley's rapidly growing population by the increased competition in the retail sector.

If the KMC Planning site online comments facility would have allowed me (can this feature be added in the future please?), I would have attached a couple of photographs taken recently at the junction on New Hey Road and Moor Hill Road

photographs taken recently at the junction of New [illegible] Road and Moor [illegible] Road, showing the traffic congestion chaos which ensues twice every day that the Salendine Nook School and New College are open, with queues stretching from the zebra crossings by the college back past the Salendine Shopping Centre and way up the road towards the motorway junction. The traffic also queues back up Moor Hill Road for some distance, affecting the flow of traffic on Laund Road and other side streets. An equivalent queue stretches down the hill in the opposite direction towards Huddersfield having a similar effect.

Some, if not all, of this congestion will be alleviated by the creation of the Lidl 100+ space carpark, which they have already stated will not be restricted to prevent it's use by car drivers for dropping off and collecting schoolchildren and college students.

With regard to any concerns which may be raised by others over potential impacts to the existing Salendine Shopping Centre (as was raised against the previous Lidl planning application), what reason would there be for the Doctor's Surgery, Dentist, Chemist, Optician, Florist, Hypnotherapist, Estate Agent, Counsellor, Phone Shop, Physiotherapist, Recycling Centre, Charity Shop, Hairdresser, Cafe, Taxi Office or Community Police Centre to close? None of these shops and services would be in direct competition with Lidl, except perhaps the Florist, although Paul's superb selection of flowers and bespoke bouquets far exceed anything I have seen offered in any supermarket, including Sainsbury's (whose flowers are always displayed immediately inside the entrance, directly next to the florists door).

If there is any suggestion (again, as was raised against the previous Lidl planning application) that Sainsbury's could vacate the site, there needs to be proper evidence produced independently as to the likelihood of that happening, rather than rely upon information provided by parties with vested interests, together with stale data and hearsay. The only other reason I could think of would be that the current owners of the Shopping Centre have some other, as yet unrevealed plans, to change the use of the site, in which case we will most certainly need another supermarket in the immediate vicinity!

My own personal dealings with Lidl, having raised several concerns with the original plans during the previous planning application, have shown them to be open, transparent, willing to listen and amend their plans to ensure the local community has a voice and is heard. Again based on personal experience, I do not believe the same can be said of some housing developers.

We local residents have seen the on-going dereliction, attempted arson and eventual demolition of the Spotted Cow over a period of more than 6 years, leaving a tatty eyesore of a site for the last few years. A Lidl site would be far preferable to the view we have had, and presumably will continue to have for some considerable time if this application is rejected.

So once again, as residents who live within 10 metres of the site, we ask you to grant the application and allow Lidl to start to build at least some level of new infrastructure which will add consumer choice and provide 40 jobs, both of which can only be of benefit to our local community in Salendine Nook and the surrounding areas.

Thank you again for your consideration of our support for this application.

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Regards