

About the application

Application number: 2022/92081	
What is the application for?:	Demolition of existing buildings and erection of retail food store with associat
Address of the site or building:	Land at, Huddersfield Road/Leeds Road, Birstall, Batley, WF17 9AA
Postcode:	

User comments

Type of comment: An objection	
Do you wish your comments to be published on the website anonymously?	Yes
As a regular traveller through this junction from all directions and at regular times during the day, I can say that there is hardly ever a time during shop hours when this junction is not congested. If you conduct a traffic census, you will be able to verify this. Therefore, any new destination point here like a supermarket will make the junction even more of a barrier to traffic and mean some drivers taking other routes out of the village (like through Fieldhead). It will also affect custom for whoever owns the shop. I would add that anything that encourages pedestrians to cross here needs to be avoided because it would mean changing the junction timings as they encourage impatient red man crossing as it is. I also oppose this on the grounds that the existing owner should have put these attractive stone buildings back into use. The old gentleman who lived in the end of terrace to the south kept his dwelling attractive and quite a contrast with the other empty dwellings in the row. It could still be renovated as much needed low cost housing if the council used its powers. The loss of this terrace will be detrimental to Birstall as it means losing potentially attractive housing in favour of more retail, a declining sector in an area already over populated with supermarkets. If this supermarket diverts custom from the Coop, Tesco and Nisa stores in the market place, they may close or have to reduce their staffing or offering. The market place is a much better and safer place to shop and we need to concentrate on sustaining them in line with the council's policies on town centres. It seems to be generally agreed nowadays that demolition to build should be avoided in favour of utilising what we have on environmental grounds and I would suggest that this is a good example of when that principle should apply because we do not need a supermarket whereas we do need housing.	