

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

Siting a food store at this junction is totally unacceptable for several reasons.

The junction at the Coach and Six traffic lights is already a nightmare with heavy congestion. Traffic already queues down Geldard Road to join Huddersfield road and despite hatched markings traffic continues to obstruct entry and exit to adjacent roads by stopping in the hatched area.

This crossroads has been the scene of many accidents over the years, (some fatal, even though traffic lights were installed some years ago). If this planning application is approved pedestrians will be at higher risk than ever, trying to cross any of the roads at this junction. Schoolchildren and elderly people use the crossing frequently, it is already hazardous for them, even with the traffic lights controlling pedestrian right of way not everyone respects this and I have seen vehicles narrowly miss pedestrians on many occasions.

The area is busy at all times of day, but especially at rush hour and school times with traffic going to and from schools in the area. Since the one way system on Brookroyd Lane was implemented traffic going to Batley Girls' High School now uses this junction more.

Entry and exit from the proposed premises will massively exacerbate existing traffic congestion. Vehicles entering and exiting the proposed retail premises will have to cut across queuing traffic on Leeds road which will then impact on the crossroad access. Kirklees Highways need to do a thorough traffic survey, at different times of the day, of how things are at the moment before this application is considered.

If a food store is opened it will back onto residential premises on Brownhill Close, causing noise to residents. There is also the possibility of vermin around the back of the store, which backs onto the gardens of these houses.

This land is next to a row of cottages which are in Birstall's Conservation area, Kirklees need to take this into consideration as these cottages have already fallen into disrepair. Enforcement action has not been taken against the owners who have left the houses to deteriorate since the last occupants left a few years ago. It is believed the owners of these houses also own the land where the proposed retail outlet will be so if this application is approved Kirklees what will happen to the cottages? Kirklees need to impose a condition that these are restored if this application is approved.

Birstall already has a Coop Supermarket and a Tesco store as well as smaller food shops, these are sites within the village centre and well used and easily accessed by locals. A retail outlet at this busy crossroads will be used primarily by passing traffic not local people. There are already food outlets at J27 which commuters can use, M&S Simply Foods and The Range for example. Allowing another retail store on this site will add to the decline of the shopping centre in the village centre, instead of encouraging customers to a new store Kirklees should be promoting the retailers in the village centre.