

## **Matter 18 – Retailing and town centre policies (Policies PLP13(B&C), 14, 15 & 16)**

### ***Comments by Holmfirth Conservation Group (HCG)***

1. In PLP 13 any developments outside the identified town centre boundaries will require sequential and impact tests. The Council recently approved an application by Aldi, to construct a supermarket outside of Holmfirth centre. Were the necessary tests carried out, or has Kirklees failed it's own policies at the first fence.
2. PLP 14 notes that the need to maintain the ground floor uses, but this cannot ensure the specific use of an existing premise where a company seeks closure of outlying or uneconomic units. Holmfirth has recently lost one of its banks; this building is now vacant and is unlikely to be re-occupied by another banking company. What can Kirklees do, with the stated policies, to ensure that sectors of the market do not desert our town centres?
3. PLP 15 The use of buildings for residential occupation at upper floor levels only. Is this sustainable?
4. PLP 16 Holmfirth has a vibrant restaurant and evening economy. The centre, now, being an attraction in its own right. The fact that the town has, probably the north of England's most popular small live music centre being a major factor. That in its self generates further developments that support the needs of these visitors, but these consequential developments place increased pressures on the inadequate infrastructure.
5. We note the lack of the provision of facilities for younger people in Holmfirth.

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