

**Deputation on behalf of Havant Climate Alliance and Friends of the Earth
re. APP/20/01221 for a Lidl Supermarket next to B&Q on Purbrook Way
for HBC Planning Committee on 9th June 2022**

We object to this application as there are already too many supermarkets around Havant and it will add to traffic congestion and pollution in the area (from idling vehicle engines).

However we know that there are people who would like a low cost store (lower cost than most other supermarkets) within easy reach of eastern Purbrook and western Leigh Park. If approved it is important that the right conditions are placed on the development.

Ecology and Climate Change

There have been improvements to the original landscaping plan with the inclusion of native species of trees and other plants to provide a more ecologically friendly habitat, including a wildlife corridor along the southern boundary. This is important because of its proximity to a number of woodland SINC's. However too many existing trees are to be removed from this boundary and apart from those removed by the entrance road to improve visibility for traffic, the rest should remain. It is important that existing trees should be retained as far as possible, even if viewed as poor quality, in view of their important role in carbon sequestration. It can take at least 10 years and often more before a newly planted tree can match the carbon absorption of a mature tree. Any tree removal in the next 10 years will add to the big decline in carbon absorption in our area caused by the large number of mature trees that will be lost in Havant Thicket.

A number of native deciduous trees could also be planted within the car parking area to improve overall tree cover long term and to provide shade in Summer.

It is good that there is a detailed and ongoing Management and Maintenance Plan for the landscape around the store. The proposal to retain standing dead wood is good. However some aspects of the plan could harm biodiversity. The removal of all brambles, thistles, nettles and docks which are valuable to wildlife is not acceptable. Some should be retained. Neither is the plan to use glyphosate and herbicides to get rid of "weeds" in green sward and wildflower meadows. While it may be necessary to use extreme measures to get rid of pernicious species such as Japanese Knotweed and Russian Vine, most native "weeds" have value in supporting large numbers of invertebrates/insects and in turn, bird species.

Construction and Climate Change

The building should be built to the highest BREEAM standards for insulation and incorporate as many solar pv panels as possible on its roof to generate the maximum of its own electricity. One could also argue for 1 or 2 wind turbines on the site as it is quite exposed. A number of EV charge points are needed in the car park with plans to increase them as electrical vehicle use picks up.

Traffic layout

Although we support improvements to the pedestrian and off road cycle ways along Purbrook Way, the crossing point for them across the B&Q access road appears very dangerous. Numbers of cyclists and pedestrians, including children, travel across the entrance at peak times and already can have difficulty crossing due to cars suddenly turning left from the roundabout onto the access road. There may also be pedestrians and cyclists coming to Lidl from the west who will need to cross. Despite changes to the

Highway Code, drivers concentrating on turning off a roundabout may not be sufficiently alert to people crossing the road immediately afterwards.

It would not work to place the crossing further north along the access road as this would require people to detour and many would take the most direct and dangerous route. The only way to make this crossing safe for people would be to make it a Pelican or Toucan crossing with lights, even though this might slightly increase traffic congestion.

