

96 Havant Road, Hayling Island, PO11 0LJ

07th November, 2017

Mr Lewiis Oliver
Case Officer
Planning Department
Havant Borough Council
Public Service Plaza
Civic Centre Road
Havant
PO9 2AX



Dear Sir

RE: APP / 17/00656 Erection of a discount foodstore with associated parking and landscaping and new vehicular and pedestrian accesses Manor Road

I strongly object to the above proposal by LIDL for the following reasons:

The proposed field is outside the Urban Area designated by Havant Borough Council.

There are very few bicycle parking spaces on the plan, so LIDL appear to expect that the vast majority of customers would access the site by car. The long daily business hours proposed by LIDL can only increase the volume of traffic at the Church Road roundabout which is already busy all day and long into the evening when flow is normal. In the event of an accident on any of the roads from the roundabout, or during weekly dustbin collections, the traffic there is often jammed.

Even with the proposed right turn box lane, this extra traffic would undoubtedly lead to longer queues on all roads issuing from the roundabout as well as consequent increase in noise and air pollution. As a small business operator with half my customers on Hayling Island, I can ill afford to waste more time than I already have to in traffic holdups.

The LIDL application and its impact on traffic cannot be viewed in isolation, given that there are already new proposals for high density housing developments in fields close to Sinah Lane, which if granted, would add considerable volumes of completely new traffic in the West Lane area. It is not clear whether the forecasts of traffic volumes on the LIDL traffic survey take account of this other potential new residential traffic impact.

The LIDL proposal claims that it will generate new jobs for locals, but is vague on actual numbers and whether such jobs would be full or part time. Some existing local retailers would likely suffer from the additional competition from LIDL, particularly as LIDL would be able to offer free car parking whereas shops in Mengham are unable to do that - so jobs in the food sector elsewhere on the island would be put at risk or lost if this application is granted.

LIDL states that the proposed new store would stock a limited product range. Hayling Island already has several convenience stores in West Town, Mengham and seafront locations that offer limited product ranges. Adding another store of similar ilk at the proposed site would come with a high price tag in terms of loss of visual amenity, change in character of a semi-rural junction and an irreversible reduction in greenfield land on the island.

I have read the Ecological Survey carried out in October 2016. The survey and its conclusions are based on a single visit inspection. Yet the company that carried out the survey states that 'no single site investigation could ensure complete characterisation and prediction of the natural environment' and also that a single inspection means "seasonal variations cannot be observed".

Surely, for a convincing conclusion to be reached, the site would need to have been visited on several occasions to allow fuller observation of seasonal variations and a fuller prediction of natural environment. Given that Hayling Island is renowned for seasonal bird migration, e.g. winter saltwater waders in the littoral zone and housemartins, and swallows on farmland in summer, why was a repeat survey not carried out at different seasons of the year?

It is undeniable, however, that loss of a greenfield with mature woodland trees such as the proposed LIDL location, reduces the overall quantity of land that currently sustains habitats for 'common' birds, animals, insects and plants - even if no rare ones were noted on the survey.

The eradication of 'common' habitats that would result from a development such as this one, can only take the dwindling local wildlife closer to rarity.

If this proposal is granted, it is difficult to see how it can be anything other than the thin end of the wedge for development of all remaining green fields that flank Havant Road heading north of Church Rd roundabout.

Yours faithfully,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of A Barletta.

A Barletta