

Cllr Clare Satchwell – Deputation to Development Management Committee on Thursday 7th December 2017 Re Application APP/17/00656

Good evening. Firstly I would like to praise the officers from the planning department and the offices from legal and democratic services at Havant Borough Council for their diligent work on this application.

Due to the nature of this application, and as both a Hayling Island Councillor and resident, I felt that I could not fulfil my role as a committee member tonight as I am already predetermined in favour of a discount food store *as I feel this would be of great benefit to the community*. My predetermination means that I would not be able to debate the matter with a clear and open mind and feel this would be unfair to the residents of the Havant Borough and Hayling Island. Instead I have opted to entrust this responsibility to my Colleagues and enact my right to address the committee as a ward Councillor.

It is in my experience that it is extraordinary for the council to receive the volume of responses to a planning application that this application has attracted the majority of the hundreds of representations and comments received are from residents who support this application. In addition to formal representations to the council I have personally received contact from hundreds of residents in support of the application and a handful that are against.

Whilst I am absolutely in support of this application there are of course concerns. These are primarily to do with the site being a green field, concerns about local shops and quite remarkably a small number of residents who do not want to see an affordable store but instead would be happy to see a premium band.

Firstly for the benefit of those in the public gallery we must remember that this evening we are looking at the application in front of us. We cannot look at alternative locations or seek top redesign.

I do understand and appreciate the concerns regarding the application site being a green field however, as the site is adjacent to the urban area and it is served by three connecting roads, after consideration I share the findings of the officers and find this acceptable.

Having looked objectively at the concerns raised about how this may affect local shops I personally believe that those that shop at our cherished butchers, fruit & veg and bakery shops for example do so not because they cannot buy those products elsewhere on the island but because they wish to support our local small businesses. Granting permission I suggest is unlikely to lead to any change in shopping behaviour for these residents. These residents can already find these products at national chains on the island but make a personal choice to support our local businesses. Lidl the applicant is not like larger supermarket brands, they do not

sell everything and they do not have concessions. It could be argued that if more residents do their main shop on the island they are more likely to do additional shopping locally.

With regards to a minority not wishing to see an affordable supermarket on island, I think perhaps they do not fully appreciate the number of people living in Hayling East who live on low incomes. This gives Hayling East the same demographic classification as other deprived areas in the Borough. We should also consider the aging population on the island who currently accept high food prices or travel off the island to do a weekly shop.

I had planned to ask for further conditions regarding landscaping however I can see these have now been met.

Hayling Island is unique in Havant Borough by having a single road on and a single road off, I believe most residents do their main shop off the island and therefore this application has the potential to reduce journeys on and off the island which in turn can reduce congestion.

For too long large super market chains have used Hayling Island as a cash cow with often wildly inflated pricing. Our residents deserve choice and convenience that is appropriate for an island with a population circa 18,000.

I would like to support the officers recommendation and grant permission. I hope that members agree with officers and see fit to grant permission.