

Aldi Letter Main Points

I am writing to express our concern at the possibility of Aldi building a store at the junction of Palmerston Way and London Road near the boundary between Leicester and Oadby and Wigston. We believe that there are four strong reasons not to give planning permission, should Aldi seek it.

We understand that you have already replied to some residents stating that the development would not be allowed to go ahead, but wanted to add our voice to theirs and register our concern, should Aldi proceed with an application for planning permission.

Firstly, the Hol Brook flows through the site before crossing into Knighton, passing under Shanklin Drive, past gardens on Knighton Church Road and flowing down Knighton Church Road and under Carisbrooke Road to join the Wash Brook/Saffron Brook. This water course has been the cause of flooding in recent years, and we believe that the green area that Aldi are proposing to build on serves an important role in absorbing and holding back some of the water that flows in the brook. Any additional building on or covering of the land in that area with impermeable surfaces would have a significant effect downstream.

Secondly, the area is part of an area of open space, including the Race Course, former Golf Course, Botanic Garden and Knighton Park, connected via the Wigston Road Allotments, Parklands and Brocks Hill to the boundary of the urban area. As such it provides habitat for wildlife and a corridor into the city. Trees and green space help to mitigate the effects of airborne pollution for residents. There is a movement to create larger areas of green space, through Living Landscapes (Bigger, Better, More Joined Up), and reduction in the green space here would be a loss of habitat and amenity value.

Thirdly, there are more than enough supermarkets in the area already. There are smaller supermarkets at Aberdale Road (Co-op and Tesco), London Road (Co-op), The Parade (Marks and Spencer), and large supermarkets in Oadby (Asda, Waitrose and Sainsbury). There is no evidence that people in Oadby and Wigston or the south-east corner of the city are lacking in number or variety of shops.

Finally, the plan that Aldi have shown on their website shows access to the supermarket from Palmerston Way close to the roundabout. This is a busy traffic intersection, and the proposed access would be disruptive to traffic flow. If traffic turning west onto Palmerston Way from the roundabout were allowed to turn right across the eastbound traffic on Palmerston Way, this would be likely to cause both congestion and accidents. If there is no access for westbound traffic, then people trying to reach the supermarket from Oadby would have to go some distance along Palmerston Way before being able to turn round. For people approaching from London Road or Knighton, it is likely to result in people using Shanklin Drive and Link Road to get through to what is already a difficult turn onto Palmerston Way, increasing rat-running through residential streets.