

Dear

Further to your email to the Mayor, please find below the Council's position on this matter.

Around 3 weeks ago, Aldi Stores Limited (Aldi) commenced a localised public consultation for a new store within the Oadby area. The Council had not endorsed the consultation and were not actually aware of a consultation taking place until local residents contacted the Council about it.

The land area that Aldi is promoting is an important area of open green space and is currently designated as Green Wedge in the Council's Local Plan. The Council has no intention to de-designate the area as Green Wedge for the foreseeable future.

The purpose of a Green Wedge is to protect the Borough's important areas of open land from inappropriate development as well as, influence development form and have a positive effect on local people's health and well-being. Due to the open and undeveloped nature of the Green Wedges, the majority of built development is unacceptable, unless it is consistent, with for example, the following; agriculture, horticulture and allotments not accompanied by retail development; outdoor leisure, recreation and sporting facilities; forestry and bodies of water; footpaths, bridleways and cycle ways; and, burial grounds.

Retail development does not comprise an appropriate use within a designated Green Wedge area, and in any event retail development of any form should be located within a local centre or town centre. The site that Aldi is promoting is not located in either of those centres mentioned.

In addition, the Council has recently prepared a number of evidence base documents, one of which relates to the levels of retail need within the Borough area. The evidence produced states that there is currently no convenience retail need within the Oadby area due to the existing number of supermarkets present. The provision of an Aldi store would be defined as convenience retail.

It should be noted that, although the Council are not promoting the development of the land at Palmerston Way, this does not preclude Aldi from submitting a planning application to the Council for its development.

If you have any further questions or queries, please feel free to contact myself or Jamie Carr on 0116 257 2652.

Regards

Adrian

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