



Mr Craig Hatton
Chief Executive
North Ayrshire Council
Cunninghame House
Irvine
KA12 8EE

24 August 2020

Dear Mr Hatton,

Lidl Action Group - Irvine Wants Lidl

I write to you on behalf of Lidl Action Group, who formed in September 2019 in support of Lidl's proposals to bring a new store to Stanecastle Roundabout. We are disappointed that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, North Ayrshire Council's Local Review Body officials will decide Lidl's application to build a new store at Stanecastle Roundabout at a closed meeting on 2 September 2020. Having become aware of this, it is our intention to write to you to support Lidl's request that this application is given a formal hearing by the Local Review Body to allow all sides of the debate to be heard. We think it is essential that the applicant and the community have the opportunity to offer our views on the application before the Local Review Body make their final decision.

It's clear from talking to our family, friends and neighbours that people across Irvine want to see the Lidl store at Stanecastle Roundabout built. We can speak to community interest in this application and it is completely contrary to public opinion and common sense for council officials to have refused this application. Lidl are committed to the site at Stanecastle Roundabout. The proposals represent a huge commitment to Irvine in difficult times providing up to 40 well paid jobs and a multi million pound investment. In these current uncertain times, a promise of new jobs in the area is something.

The Lidl Action Group already has the backing of over 200 local people who have written letters of support to the Council are delighted a further 140 supporters have got in touch over the past few weeks to join the group and lend their support to bring Lidl to Irvine. The Lidl Action Group held a Public Meeting on 3 March with nearly 100 people at the Volunteer Rooms. The Group addressed attendees and warned that their voices were not being heard by North Ayrshire Council.

We will continue to do everything in our power to bring Lidl to Stanecastle. We believe it would give us a supermarket in a convenient location, close to neighbourhoods whose retail needs aren't being met. Stanecastle Roundabout is well connected with public transport with three buses that pass over Manson Drive frequently. If you have any questions or would like to speak with the Group please do let me know and I can arrange. We will accept the final decision made by the Local Review Body if all procedures are followed correctly and the local community can be involved in the decision making process to state their case.

Yours sincerely,

Lidl Action Group

Dear Sir

Re Application to build new LIDL store at Crompton Way Irvine

I was relieved when this application was refused by the Council and hope the decision will not be changed on review. I write in response to the company's exaggerated reports of support for the proposal which was included in a leaflet distributed by the company. This is based on the views of approximately 100 people at a meeting hosted by the company. According to the company there's "not a single person against the proposal. Well I am against it and do not feel the number mentioned by the company represent a significant proportion of local people or the wider views of people in Irvine.

I am against the proposal for the following reasons: -

1. Irvine does not need another food shop / discount supermarket - which would simply take away from local convenience stores and put jobs at risk.
2. LIDL really doesn't add a great deal more in terms of choice - despite the company's suggestion there are many similar discount stores, e.g. Food Warehouse, Farm Foods, Aldi, etc.
3. I support the Council policy to encourage town centre / High Street developments.
4. The suggestion that this is a local neighbourhood store with good pedestrian / cycling access is irrelevant for a LIDL store. There's a reason they are providing 130 parking places - they envisage people doing their large weekly shopping. It is not a convenience store.
5. The company want the council to consider "real world" situations. In the real world the majority of LIDL customers would drive or take a taxi They are certainly not going to be walking or cycling with heavy shopping bags through a network of footpaths and grass verges; they won't be crossing busy 2 lane roads and negotiating roundabout with heavy traffic, less so in the winter - in the dark and on icy paths!!
6. The only "locals" are the residents in the new housing development. I don't live there but it would certainly not be an attractive feature to me if I did.

7. LIDL says it is committed to Irvine. Only while it suits and if it gets the site it wants to compete with ALDI - it is not so many years since they closed a store.
8. I don't agree that the Stanecastle and Towerland roundabouts can cope with the increased traffic that the store would generate. There are significant waiting times to enter Stanecastle roundabout from Manson Road, Bank Street and Long Drive (both directions). It can be positively dangerous to access and exit the Stanecastle Road because of the close proximity to Bank Street.
9. I note some of the letters of support reference the need for this store because of COVID restrictions. While I sympathise with those affected (and indeed am affected myself due to husband's health issues) I don't think important decisions can be made on the basis of what we all hope is a temporary situation.

I hope the above can be taken into account.

Yours faithfully

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to add my name to the growing number of local people opposed to the above. My objections are as follows:

1. Due to its location, I do not believe it would be used as a Convenience Store by people who do not have access to their own transport. There are already a number of shops locally providing this service.
2. Irvine is very well catered for by the number of Supermarkets we have.
3. Stanecastle Roundabout. What more need I say? This is a Roundabout which already should have traffic control, at least at peak times. It can be horrendously busy, cars entering, leaving this proposed Supermarket would only make it more hazardous.

Yours faithfully,