

**Submission to Scrutiny Commission**

6<sup>th</sup> September 2023

From Mr P. King CC, Local Member

**Item 9: Report of the Director of Corporate Resources  
Airfield Business Park Development Proposal – Final Phase**

“I would say that I am as the division member concerned about these proposals. The original scheme was very much a ‘flagship’ proposal for employment as this is the key northern entry to Market Harborough, which I was in support of and of course I understand that the County Council needs to make return on it’s investment.

Without fettering my discretion as I’m also a member of the DCB committee. However, I have some concerns about the proposals in the report to Scrutiny Commission for phase 3, which includes 2X drive thru’s.

All drive thru’s that I’m aware of sell mainly what is classed as ‘junk’ food. Obesity is on the rise and is a major public health issue in the UK and in Leicestershire and a major contributing factor to high blood pressure, heart disease, strokes, diabetes, etc.

The County Council is the Public Health Authority and is engaged in tax payer funded actions to try to educate and persuade public that they should eat more healthily so that demand on health care is reduced and ultimately demand on social care also. Facilitating development of Drive thru’s would appear to be contra-indicated to the objectives of Public Health. I’d like to understand how the public health impacts, short and long term have been assessed if 2 drive thrus are located here?

I also note from the report that almost 2/3rds of the rent revenue stream is expected to come from the 2 drive thru’s and the proposed bespoke 60,000 sqft unit.

There’s also a concern about whether such a proposals may have negative impact locally on the economic viability of Market Harborough Town Centre via the development of what is in effect a retail type offering at this site which is out of town.

The likely increase in vehicle traffic to this locality would also be a concern for residents near to this site as the original approved plans and masterplan for the adjoining airfield farm did not envisage this type of development with such frequent trips to this location etc. I’m unclear how this fits in with the development of the LCWIP for Market Harborough to encourage more people to cycle and walk, by allocating land here for drive thrus?

I look forward to hearing how these issues can be addressed.”

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