

From: planningcomments@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk
To: [Planning Comments \(SMDC\)](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access
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Application Reference No. : SMD/2022/0361 Site Address: Churnet Works Abbey Green Road Leek
Staffordshire ST13 8YQ Comments by: mari mccormack
From:

Abbey Green Road
LEEK
Leek

Phone:

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Submission: Objection

Comments: Traffic ¿ look no further than Macclesfield to see exactly what sort of traffic chaos can be expected at one of the main feeder roads into Leek. During off-peak ¿quiet¿ times, Sainsburys store and petrol station customers will be caught up in the queues for McDonalds drive through ¿ and during busy times (i.e. all day Saturday and Sunday, all school holidays, bank holidays etc), the traffic will regularly be backed up onto the main roundabout leading into Leek¿.. this is exactly what currently happens in Macclesfield ¿ it also has a huge negative impact on nearby businesses, as their customers want to avoid the traffic congestion in the shared car parking area. Having McDonald¿s try to persuade their staff to car-share or walk to work is not going to solve this traffic chaos ¿ I urge the council decision makers to visit the Macclesfield branch of McDonalds to see the reality of traffic logistics that accompany McDonalds.

Litter ¿ the nearest McDonalds to Leek is currently about 10 miles away, and yet it is still easy to find McDonalds litter on rural Leek roads (e.g. Highup Lane) ¿.. presumably, some customers take their drive-through food to a scenic location and then discard their litter at the side of the road. There can be no doubt that this problem will increase exponentially when beautiful countryside is quite literally a 2 minute drive away i.e. the beautiful parkland setting of Abbey Green Road. The council (thankfully) have a history of protecting this area, which contains listed buildings, including a Grade 2* listing. McDonalds litter patrol, by their own admission, will not cover this area. In addition, the Abbey Inn pub has a large car park in a very pretty setting, which would no doubt be seen as a prime spot, very easily accessible, to consume McDonalds food.

Market Town Identity - Leek is a unique market town, with lots of independent shops and cafes, and actively promotes itself as a ¿totally locally¿ town ¿ McDonalds can hardly fit this description. This is a huge global corporation, minimal profits will be invested locally, and most jobs created will be low paid, part-time and unskilled. Leek already has lots of food outlets to suit all budgets¿.. even Sainsbury¿s itself, adjacent to the proposed location, has a café with prices comparable to McDonalds.

Public Health ¿ the UK has an obesity crisis, we are one of the fattest nations in Europe with increasing obesity rates in children under the age of 16. Fast food is consistently linked to higher BMIs and weight gain and is often high in calories, high in salt and with poor nutritional value. Children are deliberately targeted by McDonalds marketing campaigns nationally, and their plans locally include a children¿s play area. They have also recently introduced a rewards programme, to encourage greater consumption of their food. Excessive consumption of this sort of fast food is known to have health implications. I urge Leek to take a long-term view¿. This isn¿t about giving kids somewhere to hang out on a Sunday afternoon, it's about making a stand against Global corporations making enormous profits at the expense of our children¿s long-term health.

To summarise, McDonalds is completely contrary to Leek¿s market town identity. It would negatively impact nearby businesses, create traffic chaos on a regular basis at an already busy entrance to Leek and seriously damage the beauty of nearby green belt areas with excessive litter. Most importantly, McDonalds is part of an ever-increasing industry that represents a serious long-term public health problem.

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