

From: Mr A Mason

Sent: 11 June 2024 20:42

To: Office <Office@andovertc.co.uk>

Cc: Jason Sangster <cllrjsangster@andovertc.co.uk>; Cllr Thomas Gregory <CllrThomasGregory@andovertc.co.uk>; Cllr Joseph Hughes <CllrJosephHughes@andovertc.co.uk>; Rebecca Meyer <vermillionstone@hotmail.com>

Subject: ASDA Andover - planning application

Dear Andover Town Council,

(Copied to the Chair and Vice-Chair of Planning, and Winton Ward Councillors)

PLANNING APPLICATION 24/01310/VARN - ASDA, ANTON MILL ROAD

You may be aware that Asda have made another application to permit an unlimited number of deliveries to their store on Anton Mill Road 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There are currently planning restrictions on the site that prevent deliveries overnight between 22:00 to 07:00 Monday to Saturday, and 18:00 to 08:00 on Sundays and public holidays.

Asda previously made the same application in December 2020, before withdrawing it in the face of multiple objections - including from Andover Town Council. I am writing today to urge you please to object to this application again.

Despite withdrawing their application for overnight deliveries, Asda decided to go ahead anyway in breach of the planning conditions. They have now scheduled three lorry deliveries a night, seven days a week at the store. My pregnant wife and I are regularly awoken up to six times a night (between 03:40 and 06:45) as the lorries arrive and depart from the site. I complained to the Operations Manager at the store in person in the Autumn of 2023, who told me verbally Asda would cease the overnight deliveries - but they did not adjust their schedule at all. I eventually approached Test Valley Planning, who were about to take formal enforcement action against Asda, but this has now been frozen pending the planning decision. Test Valley Environmental Health were about to conduct their own independent noise survey beginning later this month. I understand Asda are aware of this, but their recent application will likely force a decision before the results of this independent survey are available. I have no doubt that this independent noise survey would not support Asda's case!

You may see that Asda's planning agents have commissioned their own noise survey from their own in-house team. I have taken advice, and this survey is seriously flawed on several grounds:

1. The noise assessment only concerns the act of "moving goods on and off the HGV" once the lorry has reached the back of the service yard, with the "engines shut down". It does not evaluate the noise the lorries make as they drive into and out of the site, or when they leave the engines idling. It is the engine noise that causes us to wake up, so this is a serious oversight in the survey.
2. The noise assessment is a computer simulation using data collected from a lorry in Wakefield. No attempt has been made to capture real world data from the actual noise at Andover site. I'm sure this would show the noise made by the lorries' engines is in breach of public health guidelines.

Furthermore, Asda's applications state overnight deliveries "remain irregular and occur on an ad hoc basis". This is factually incorrect. I have recorded evidence of up to three deliveries every night. In their noise assessment, Asda also state the "requirement" for three lorries deliveries a night between 04:30 and 07:00. The store was able to operate perfectly well without any overnight deliveries in the 10+ years it was open before night deliveries began.

The ongoing noise from lorries arriving and departing the site (currently in breach of planning restrictions) is having a serious impact on our ability to sleep, and consequently our overall health and well-being. I cannot convey by email the impact it is having on our lives. To be frank, I believe Asda's conduct in this matter has been shameful. With a child on the way, I cannot accept a future where they will be unable to sleep soundly in their own home due to noisy lorries arriving and departing the Asda service yard outside their bedroom window. I know a number of my neighbours will be objecting too. I urge Andover Town Council please to support the residents of Andover against Asda's arrogance by objecting to this application again.

Kind regards,
A Mason