

Planning Application 14/01598/FULM

Members of Coddington Parish Council are unanimously opposed to the application for a retail food store and petrol station on the former NCC Highways site at Newark. This Council has already expressed serious concerns in previous consultations about the inadequacy of Newark's infrastructure to cope with the current volume of traffic, both in and around the town.

The A46/Great North Road Roundabout is already over-congested, particularly at peak times when there are long traffic queues in all directions, and the roundabout is often blocked. A traffic lights controlled junction so close to the roundabout would mean traffic backing up and inevitably cause more chaos and accidents.

The approach to the Town Centre carries the additional problem of a level crossing bringing traffic to a standstill at frequent times throughout the day, and it is understood that there are plans to increase the number of trains on this line. This, combined with the lorry park and cattle market on the opposite side of the road would mean even worse traffic jams.

This is already one of the worst congested areas of the town, and is not a suitable site for a large retail store and service station attracting hundreds of extra cars every day. The plans do not provide any solution to the current situation, and would add further to Newark's traffic-flow problems.

Newark is already well-served for supermarkets, but if another is needed, it would be better placed in the Balderton / Fernwood area, or adjacent to the Southern Link Road to take traffic away from Newark Town Centre, and to reflect the vision of the Adopted Core Strategy. In turn this might release the land in the Great North Road area for desperately needed road improvements, including a raised A46 flyover for east/west through traffic.