

Appendix 4

Dear Mrs A May,

I trust this letter finds you well. I am writing to voice my deep concern and strong opposition to the street trading application for a hot food van in the layby adjacent to our rural home, which is situated in a green belt area and near an accident hotspot. I believe that approving such an application in this particular location would not only be detrimental to our community but also pose serious safety risks, especially considering that a school bus collects/drops off children from this location.

Our home is located in a rural green belt area, and residents here have consciously chosen to live in this peaceful and scenic environment. The proposed hot food van, if permitted, would introduce a host of issues that are particularly concerning in our unique setting, and the situation is exacerbated by the fact that a school bus uses this layby daily:

Environmental Impact: The green belt area is intended to preserve the natural beauty and rural character of our surroundings. Allowing commercial activity like a hot food van would disrupt the ecological balance, potentially leading to litter, pollution, and damage to the pristine environment.

Safety Hazards: This location is already recognized as an accident hotspot due to its layout and proximity to Dayhouse Bank and Bromsgrove Road. The introduction of additional traffic generated by the van could significantly increase the risk of accidents, putting the safety of both residents, passing motorists, and schoolchildren at serious risk.

Traffic Congestion: Our rural roads are not designed to accommodate heavy traffic flow. The presence of a food van could lead to congestion, obstructing emergency vehicles, and making it increasingly difficult for the school bus to operate safely and efficiently.

Noise Disturbance: Operating a food van often involves loud machinery and customer interactions. This noise would not only disrupt the peace and quiet of our rural area but also potentially disturb children boarding the school bus.

Impact on Children's Safety: The layby and opposite layby are crucial pickup/drop off points for the school bus that collects our children. The presence of a commercial enterprise in this location could pose a direct threat to their safety as they embark and disembark from the bus.

Sanitation Issues: Operating a hot food van without providing access to toilet facilities for customers who consume drinks poses a considerable health and sanitation risk. Without adequate restroom options, patrons may resort to public urination or defecation, compromising hygiene standards and potentially spreading diseases.

Food waste and litter: Running a hot food van where operators dispose of waste improperly and customers litter can lead to a concerning proliferation of vermin and significant health hazards for both local residents and the rural environment. Neglected waste attracts rodents and pests, creating an unsightly and unsanitary landscape that can contribute to the spread of diseases. Moreover, the presence of vermin in a rural area can disrupt the local ecosystem and harm indigenous wildlife.

Impact of Customers: Operating a hot food van in a rural location may inadvertently attract van drivers seeking a place to take breaks, which poses several risks to the tranquility and environment of the area. The potential for drivers to linger and dispose of rubbish inappropriately could result in increased noise levels and pollution, disrupting the peaceful ambiance of the countryside. This not only affects the quality of life for local residents but can also harm the delicate rural ecosystem. There may also be a potential risk to our children being subjected the unwanted attention from persons who are hanging around during collection/drop off times.

Impact on Property Values: The presence of a commercial enterprise in close proximity to our homes may adversely affect property values, causing financial losses for homeowners in the area.

Given the rural green belt nature of our location and the existing safety concerns at the layby, I strongly urge you to carefully consider the potential negative repercussions before making a decision on this street trading application. Preserving the natural beauty, tranquility, and safety of our rural community should be of paramount importance, especially considering the safety of our children.

I respectfully request that you deny the application for the hot food van in the layby next to our home in the interest of safeguarding our rural environment, the safety of our residents, and, most importantly, the well-being of our schoolchildren. The potential hazards this application poses to their safety are of utmost concern.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to hearing from you soon. Please make the decision that best serves the interests of our unique and cherished rural community.

Sincerely,