

SHRA

Sovereign Harbour Residents Association



Mrs Caroline Ansell MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

18 November 2022

By email only to : caroline.ansell.mp@parliament.uk

Dear Caroline

As you will be aware, an application has been submitted to Eastbourne Borough Council seeking planning permission for an Aldi store on undeveloped land (Site 7a) located between Pevensey Bay Road and Pacific Drive, Sovereign Harbour North (see plan below).

The Sovereign Harbour Residents Association (SHRA) opposes the current proposal, largely because the only access to and from Aldi will be via a single entrance on Pacific Drive.

Pacific Drive is the only vehicular route to all North Harbour residential developments (more than 3000 homes) as well as to Pacific House (office block), the Harbour Medical Practice, the RNLI lifeboat station and the marina offices. The road is already busy at peak times and traffic flow is constant. Many pedestrians attending the Harbour Medical Centre need to cross Pacific Drive.

SHRA have been contacted by numerous residents of the North Harbour who are extremely worried about the proposed development because they fear the inevitable increase in traffic will bring about a situation where, because of some accident or breakdown, Pacific Drive becomes completely impassable, resulting in all North Harbour access being blocked. There are also general safety and environmental concerns from the increase in traffic on Pacific Drive.

In addition to the many Aldi customer vehicle movements, we are extremely concerned about Aldi's delivery and waste removal traffic. Aldi expect there to be 3 or 4 daily articulated lorry deliveries, but with only one entrance on Pacific Drive those large HGVs will have to travel though and reverse through the customer car park (see diagram below). Having HGVs passing cars that are parking/reversing is quite worrying and gives us cause for concern.

In the recent consultation prior to the planning application being submitted, residents asked Aldi to amend their plan and incorporate access directly from the A259, Pevensey Bay Road, a tried and tested solution as the entrances to Aldi's Hastings and Bexhill stores are directly off the A259. This solution is supported by SHRA as it removes the overwhelming objections and concerns of the North Harbour community. However, this solution was rejected by Aldi on cost grounds.

In view of the serious traffic, safety, and wellbeing issues, we hope you will understand the anxiety and objections of the North Harbour residents and give them your full support by doing what you can to help have the planning consent refused.

Kind regards

Tony Smith

Deputy Chair tony.smith@shra.co.uk

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www.shra.co.uk

