

SPR Planning Local Review Body

From: Stewart McGregor [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 June 2026 17:41
To: SPR Planning Local Review Body
Subject: Additional Representation – Review Application LRB-2026-15 / 25/01116/FLL

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Dear Clerk to the Local Review Body,

I wish to submit additional comments in support of the review application relating to Planning Application 25/01116/FLL for the proposed McDonald's restaurant and drive-thru at Perth Road, Blairgowrie.

As a local resident and Father, I strongly support this development and believe the original refusal should be reconsidered.

I believe the original decision failed to properly recognise the substantial economic, social and community benefits that the development would bring to Blairgowrie and the surrounding area.

The proposed site forms part of an established mixed-use development area adjacent to Westpark Retail Park, where commercial uses already exist, including Lidl, Home Bargains and an operational Starbucks drive-thru. The proposal would therefore not introduce an incompatible use into a residential area, but would instead COMPLEMENT an existing retail and commercial destination.

The refusal cites concerns regarding Policy 27 of National Planning Framework 4 and the site's location outside a designated retail centre. However, the applicant's Town Centre First Assessment demonstrated that no suitable or available alternative sites exist within Blairgowrie town centre that could accommodate a modern drive-thru restaurant of this nature. The proposal therefore meets a genuine commercial need while serving a population currently located more than 20 kilometres from the nearest McDonald's restaurant.

The economic benefits alone are significant and should be afforded substantial weight:

- Approximately 140 direct construction jobs and a further 120 indirect jobs during construction.
- Around 80–100 direct local jobs once operational.
- Additional indirect employment opportunities across the wider Scottish economy.
- An estimated £4.1 million contribution to economic output during construction.
- Additional annual business rates revenue of approximately £39,000–£42,500.

For a town the size of Blairgowrie, these are meaningful benefits that would provide employment opportunities for young people, students, part-time workers and those seeking flexible employment.

The proposal would provide valuable employment opportunities for local people, particularly young people, school leavers and those entering the workforce for the first time. McDonald's has a well-established reputation for providing training, flexible employment and genuine opportunities for career progression. Many people begin in entry-level positions and progress into supervisory and management roles, gaining skills and experience that benefit them throughout their working lives.

I also believe the development would provide a positive social space for local families and young people. Blairgowrie has grown significantly in recent years and many residents currently have to travel to Perth, Dundee or Forfar to access facilities of this kind.

The proposed location is adjacent to an existing retail park and drive-thru Starbucks, making it a logical and appropriate location for this type of development. It would complement existing businesses, increase customer choice and bring additional investment into the town.

The economic benefits outlined by the applicant, including the creation of local jobs and additional business rates revenue, would be a significant benefit to Blairgowrie and the wider area.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the Local Review Body to support the review and grant planning permission for the development.

Yours faithfully,

Stewart McGregor
49 MacDonald Crescent
Rattray
Blairgowrie
Perthshire
PH10 7BP

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