

**From:** Geoff Smith

**Sent:** 04 July 2026 17:28

**To:** SPR Planning Local Review Body <[PlanningLRB@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:PlanningLRB@pkc.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** Re: LRB-2026-15

Hi,

Other than my original objection which you will already have (and included below in blue), I would just like to reiterate my view that the original refusal should be fully upheld.

As per the refusal notice point 1, this development is contrary to NPF4 Policy 27 (d) and therefore not in accordance with the Development Plan. However, I would just like to highlight again a few of my main objections:-

- This fast-food development is far too close to the local High School and two Primary Schools. This does not promote healthy lifestyles and healthy communities.
- Vehicle congestion will be significant and road safety at risk with the majority of people using the drive thru, no matter what McDonalds say.
- The proposed development is far too close to residential areas. The increase in litter to the surrounding area and inevitable rise in anti-social behaviour will be horrendous for local residents.
- This type of development is the last thing Blairgowrie needs and not something we should be aspiring to for the town. We should be developing and supporting unique, independent retailers and working hard to improve the tourism credentials of Blairgowrie to make it like Dunkeld and Pitlochry.

Regards

Mr G Smith

Original Objection:-

Proximity to three schools and a nursery - two primary schools and a nursery 200m away and a secondary school 600m away - these are very sensitive receptors and this is in direct conflict with local and national efforts to address the obesity and public health crises in Scotland. Locating a fast food takeaway in a highly visible and accessible location to so many school children does not promote healthy lifestyles, healthy communities or engender good choices/good habits and would be highly irresponsible. There are no benefits which outweigh this harm. The proposed location is directly on a main commuting route to school for pupils, near footpaths, bus stops and drop off areas - do we want a fast food outlet to be the first thing they see at the start and end of their day? The pressure on parents will be immense and the primary school pupils will literally be able to smell it from their classroom. The health, wellbeing and obesity of the rest of the area's local population is also at risk causing irreparable harm to the town's young people and community.

PKC have just spent £36m on a brand new Passivhaus Recreation Centre 500m away. A brand new state of the art sports and leisure facility - a "draw for East Perthshire" and to

“encourage more people to engage in sports and fitness activities, promoting a healthier community”. A junk food drive-thru in such close proximity as this completely undermines the benefits of this flagship project.

Vehicle and pedestrian safety due to traffic congestion – there are already too many junctions on to the Perth Rd in this area and this drive-thru would vastly increase traffic numbers. PKC recently set up a School Exclusion Zone due to parking issues, but this proposal would add significantly to traffic volumes during peak hours and when pupils are commuting to and from school, impacting road safety. Also there will be a significant increase in people parking, eating and discarding litter in nearby residential areas. PKC have also tried to implement a “Park and Stride” scheme at the schools to try and improve traffic and engender healthy habits, again a fast food outlet is at odds with this ethos.

Too close to residential areas with associated negative impacts – significant noise (traffic, customers and plant), odour and light pollution (all quite obvious even although their assessments would disagree...). Anti-social behaviour will be rife, with teenagers drawn to the fast food outlet – this is a recognised and well publicised issue elsewhere in Scotland. The litter produced by McDonalds will be absolutely horrendous in the local vicinity, but also for the entire town and surrounding areas, we already see McDonalds litter in Blairgowrie and the nearest outlet is in Perth.

This proposal is against the “town centre first” principle and will negatively and significantly impact on the already struggling town centre – independent cafes/restaurants, local producers and existing take aways and food outlets will see a vastly reduced footfall and impact to their business and indeed possibly their viability. This proposal also doesn’t meet some of PKC’s corporate plan objectives – “Healthy, Caring Communities”, “Educated, Responsible and Informed Citizens” and “Confident, Active and Inclusive Communities”.

There would be a huge loss of amenity for the area and it would have a terrible visual impact. A fast food drive-thru is not fitting for a small rural town, it does not fit with the community, character or natural beauty of the area. It is not the right type of development for a town like Blairgowrie, it doesn’t contribute to what makes Blairgowrie and Perth & Kinross special, unique and distinctive - it would damage the character of the area irreparably and give a terrible impression for tourists and visitors to the town (including the nearby world class golf courses, skiers and other outdoor sports enthusiasts) .

In conclusion, I don’t believe that this proposal would benefit Blairgowrie in any way whatsoever. PKC Planning need to stick up for Blairgowrie and do the right thing by refusing this application. It is a slippery slope and there would be no going back for Blairgowrie were this approved. I very much hope that common sense prevails and that planning is flatly refused.