# Residents label Lidl plan in Bushby a ‘monstrosity’ amid fears for wildlife and traffic



A new proposal for a Lidl supermarket in Bushby, Leicestershire, has generated substantial opposition among local residents, who have labelled the planned development a "monstrosity." This sentiment echoes similar concerns expressed in various other locations across the UK and Ireland, where Lidl has faced pushback for its proposed sites, particularly when these encroach on valued green spaces.

The proposed store, to be situated on vacant land east of Zouche Way, promises to include 120 car parking spaces. Yet, these offerings have not quelled the criticism from opponents. Many residents fear that the supermarket would not only mar the local landscape but also disrupt the community’s character. One vocal objector described the prospect of the Lidl store as "a curse right on our doorstep," asserting that its presence would stand in stark contrast to the area’s charm.

Environmental concerns are a prominent aspect of the objections. Some residents have cited worries that the development might "destroy" local habitats, particularly for protected species like badgers and owls. Such sentiments align with objections raised in previous Lidl proposals, such as the one in Bath, where nearly 1,000 residents rallied against a project on a green field site, citing its importance for biodiversity and community identity. In Carrick-on-Shannon, Ireland, locals labelled a proposed Lidl as a "garish carbuncle," similar to the aesthetic concerns raised in Bushby.

Traffic implications also form a significant part of the controversy. Access to the new supermarket would be established via Zouche Way, but critics predict an escalation in congestion, particularly on the already busy A47. Residents have voiced apprehensions that the additional traffic from shoppers would exacerbate commute difficulties in the area.

Conversely, not all feedback has been negative. Some residents have expressed enthusiasm about the supermarket, viewing it as a beneficial addition that could stimulate the local economy and create job opportunities. However, Lidl has not disclosed specific details about the number of jobs that would be generated. This mixed response illustrates the complex nature of community development, where the allure of new business is frequently counterbalanced by concerns over environmental and social impacts.

Previous Lidl proposals have faced similar fates. For instance, in Middlesbrough, a development was unanimously rejected due to environmental disruption, including the removal of trees vital for local wildlife. In Barnsley, objections included fears regarding safety and noise, while the proposed site in Cheadle Heath faced similar criticisms about traffic congestion and design aesthetics. These instances reflect a notable pattern of resistance faced by Lidl across various regions, highlighting a growing awareness among communities about the impact of large retail developments on local ecosystems and lifestyles.

As the Harborough District Council considers the Bushby proposal, the outcomes may not only shape the immediate area but also influence future retail developments and environmental policies across the region.

The decision regarding the Lidl store is expected by Monday, June 16, and it promises to be a pivotal moment for both supporters and opponents alike. The dynamic between community concerns and corporate interests remains a pressing issue, as towns seek to navigate the path of development while preserving their unique identities and ecosystems.

### Reference Map

* Paragraph 1: [[1]](https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/local-news/residents-hit-out-monstrosity-lidl-10178202)
* Paragraph 2: [[1]](https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/local-news/residents-hit-out-monstrosity-lidl-10178202), [[4]](https://bathvoice.co.uk/2023/08/02/bath-voice-news-battle-to-stop-lidl-building-a-supermarket-on-a-green-field-site-off-london-road-heats-up-as-almost-1000-objections-to-the-plans-are-registered/)
* Paragraph 3: [[1]](https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/local-news/residents-hit-out-monstrosity-lidl-10178202), [[2]](https://www.irishtimes.com/news/environment/lidl-faces-opposition-to-carrick-on-shannon-supermarket-1.3127058)
* Paragraph 4: [[1]](https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/local-news/residents-hit-out-monstrosity-lidl-10178202), [[3]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-tees-67458371), [[5]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-humber-63950442), [[6]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cly94ky1kdvo)
* Paragraph 5: [[1]](https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/local-news/residents-hit-out-monstrosity-lidl-10178202), [[4]](https://bathvoice.co.uk/2023/08/02/bath-voice-news-battle-to-stop-lidl-building-a-supermarket-on-a-green-field-site-off-london-road-heats-up-as-almost-1000-objections-to-the-plans-are-registered/), [[2]](https://www.irishtimes.com/news/environment/lidl-faces-opposition-to-carrick-on-shannon-supermarket-1.3127058)
* Paragraph 6: [[1]](https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/local-news/residents-hit-out-monstrosity-lidl-10178202), [[4]](https://bathvoice.co.uk/2023/08/02/bath-voice-news-battle-to-stop-lidl-building-a-supermarket-on-a-green-field-site-off-london-road-heats-up-as-almost-1000-objections-to-the-plans-are-registered/), [[6]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cly94ky1kdvo)
* Paragraph 7: [[1]](https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/local-news/residents-hit-out-monstrosity-lidl-10178202), [[3]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-tees-67458371), [[4]](https://bathvoice.co.uk/2023/08/02/bath-voice-news-battle-to-stop-lidl-building-a-supermarket-on-a-green-field-site-off-london-road-heats-up-as-almost-1000-objections-to-the-plans-are-registered/), [[5]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-humber-63950442), [[6]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cly94ky1kdvo)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/local-news/residents-hit-out-monstrosity-lidl-10178202> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/environment/lidl-faces-opposition-to-carrick-on-shannon-supermarket-1.3127058> - In June 2017, Lidl faced significant opposition in Carrick-on-Shannon, Ireland, where locals described the proposed supermarket as a 'garish carbuncle' that would destroy the aesthetics of the town's tree-lined approach. Nearly 40 objections were lodged with Leitrim County Council, citing concerns over the development's impact on the environment and existing traffic issues, particularly during weekends. The site was previously zoned for recreational use, and residents feared the development would deter potential investors and harm the town's tourism potential.
3. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-tees-67458371> - In November 2023, Middlesbrough Council unanimously rejected Lidl's proposal to build a supermarket in the Linthorpe area. The plan faced criticism after Lidl had previously cut down 19 trees, which were habitats for bats and rare butterflies. Residents expressed concerns about road safety, the store's design, and its visual impact on the conservation area. Despite Lidl's efforts to address these issues, the council cited significant local opposition and environmental considerations in their decision.
4. <https://bathvoice.co.uk/2023/08/02/bath-voice-news-battle-to-stop-lidl-building-a-supermarket-on-a-green-field-site-off-london-road-heats-up-as-almost-1000-objections-to-the-plans-are-registered/> - In August 2023, nearly 1,000 objections were raised against Lidl's plans to build a supermarket on a green field site off London Road in Bath. The proposed location, adjacent to Bath Rugby's Lambridge Training ground, was described as a vital part of Bath's identity and an essential habitat for local wildlife, including endangered species. Environmental groups and residents voiced concerns about the potential disruption to biodiversity and the undermining of efforts to protect vital ecosystems.
5. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-humber-63950442> - In December 2022, Barnsley Council's planning board recommended refusal of Lidl's application to build a supermarket in Hoyland, South Yorkshire. The proposal attracted 25 objections from residents and councillors, citing concerns over road and pedestrian safety, noise from delivery lorries, and the loss of green space. The council's highways department objected due to insufficient information on traffic movements and potential hazards posed by the development.
6. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cly94ky1kdvo> - In April 2024, Stockport Council rejected Lidl's application to build a new superstore in Cheadle Heath, Greater Manchester. The proposal faced opposition from residents and councillors, with nearly 60 objections citing concerns over traffic congestion, road safety, and the visual impact of the store. Councillors criticized Lidl's efforts to gather public support, with one describing the actions as 'disgusting.' The council emphasized the need to respect the positive character of the local area.
7. <https://pembrokeshire-herald.com/99961/safety-concerns-raised-over-proposed-new-milford-haven-lidl-store/> - In October 2023, safety concerns were raised over Lidl's proposed new supermarket in Milford Haven, Wales. Ian Ritchie, owner of the adjacent Victoria Filling Station, expressed worries about the store's design and access arrangements, which he believed could impede safe traffic flow and pose risks to customers. Despite attempts to engage with Lidl and the council, Ritchie's concerns were largely ignored, leading to calls for a redesign that prioritizes safety for existing businesses and the community.