

Resident Letter in response to Council's decision to object to Planning Application for Retail Development at Low Prudhoe

Sent via email on 6th December 2018

It is with absolute disbelief that I read in the Hexham Courant that you, our serving elected councillors have rejected the plans for a retail, accommodation and fast food outlet in Low Prudhoe. Prudhoe has a population equivalent to that of Hexham yet has no hotel accommodation and only one very poor supermarket whereas Hexham has several hotels with a Travel Lodge proposed in 2020 along with a Lidl, the towns 4th supermarket facility.

The Prudhoe population is crying out for further retail, hotel and other possible services in line with today's modern living.

You have readily agreed to massive housing developments yet reject the development of businesses to serve them!

Unbelievable, totally short sighted and smacks of self-interest over the needs of the Prudhoe residents. We all go elsewhere to get our weekly shopping which benefits all the neighbouring towns of Hexham, Blaydon-On-Tyne, Metro Centre etc, using the Prudhoe Coop reluctantly for top up shopping. Also, Prudhoe needs more recreational facilities eg a significant park accessible to everyone.

The excuse that there is no public bus service to the Low Prudhoe site is a weak one to reject the plans as if the bus companies see a lucrative opportunity, they will soon provide a service.

Also, the fear of more litter in the Town Centre despite getting revenue from business rates to fund this, if indeed it did occur; other areas seem to manage this so why not Prudhoe.

I really thought by next year the proposed development would be up and running but yet again it looks as though the new development in Hexham will be built first, as usual. The same as when Morrison's was built in Blaydon-On-Tyne. We are a laughing stock as we see other areas develop at our expense. The development originally planned for the Prudhoe Town Centre fell through and that was near to Front Street!

Please be more lateral thinking for the Prudhoe residents you serve and give us a fair deal for once. I have lived in Prudhoe for nearly 40 years and seen a lot of improvements in that time but that has stalled over the last few years and we need that to change apart from building yet more houses with no facilities to serve them. If I was house hunting now Prudhoe would not be an area to choose unfortunately as it isn't a balanced community. I hope the council will take notice of the community they serve in the future.

Mary Palmer

The Clerk failed to present the resident letter to the December meeting, apologies were offered and the following letter was received.

Sent via email on 14th December 2018

Hi Sarah

I feel very disappointed that my email was not presented at this week's meeting as the January meeting is a fair way in the future and the moment has passed as other items are discussed as priority. Thanks for forwarding it to the councillors though, I feel this topic is one of the most important factors for Prudhoe at the moment and it has dragged on for too long as it is. We hire a beach hut in Blyth which is a deprived area of Northumberland but it is developing activities and is determined to improve its image for the good of its residents. Blyth not only has the very well-maintained beach area with lots of very popular events but an impressive park too. Prudhoe needs to start raising its game as a matter of urgency

Regards Mary Palmer