



HOPEMAN Community Association

**Springfield Real Estate Management Ltd
Planning Application Ref: 20/00474/APP
Industrial Unit, Retail Unit and Two Blocks of Flats, Forsyth St, Hopeman**

10 June 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are responding to the above planning application and in doing so lodge an objection on behalf of the residents of Hopeman.

We have consulted widely with the residents of the village and have received an overwhelming response against this proposed development. It is clear from reviewing the Council's own consultation documents, that on the basis of identified breaches to the existing local plan, transport and road safety concerns that the Council officers in these areas also believe this development should not proceed.

In addition to these very valid points, which were also widely expressed and supported in the responses received from residents, there was also a strong view put forward by many on the impact such a development would inevitably have on the village's current retail infrastructure. Again, it was heartening to note on our review of the planning documents that this is yet another area in which we are in concert with the Council's view, as detailed in their Development Plan Consultation response.

Given the strange and trying times we are currently living through, which no doubt will continue for some time, the retail outlets in Hopeman, which include a Butcher, Pharmacy and two General Stores, one of which incorporates a Post Office, have all provided a level of support within the community which we believe would be hard to replicate.

As an understandable and laudable consequence, the residents would not wish to see another retail outlet being established which would surely further threaten the future viability of existing shops, already impacted by the many supermarkets opened in Elgin and Lossiemouth. The outstanding service our existing shops have provided to the residents in the past and continue to do so is in the view of the village a very welcomed position and one well worth protecting.

In closing we hope that the strongly expressed views of our local community against this proposal will be considered and continue to be supported by the Council in reaching their decision.

Yours faithfully

D Slater, Chairman.

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