



The Civic Society For Milton Keynes

# **PLAN:MK**

## **EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC**

### **Additional Submission re Policy EH8**

**August 2018**

We have undertaken a desktop survey of the new local centres that have been built as part of the expansion of Milton Keynes (ie we have excluded the existing towns).

If the Council's proposed wording had been in place when these local centres were first built then there would have been no hot food takeaways in the following, due to them being within 400m of a school:

- Beanhill
- Bradwell Common
- Broughton
- Coffee Hall
- Conniburrow
- Eaglestone
- Fishermead
- Furzton
- Galley Hill
- Giffard Park
- Grange Farm
- Great Linford
- Greenleys
- Heelands
- Monkston Park
- Neath Hill
- Netherfield
- Oldbrook
- Oxley Park
- Shenley Brook End
- Shenley Church End
- Stantonbury (NB the centre is awaiting refurbishment and has no takeaway at present, but one has operated successfully in the past).
- Two Mile Ash
- Walnut Tree
- Willen

It remains our view that the proposed policy is a very blunt instrument to tackle the issue of childhood obesity and ignores, for example, the fact that unaccompanied First School children are not allowed out of school premises during the lunch hour (so there is no need to restrict takeaways around such schools) and, indeed, that the landscape around takeaway food is changing with companies such as Deliveroo being able to deliver to any reasonable location.

Paragraph 69 of the NPPF (2012) refers to planning policies aiming to achieve places which promote "strong neighbourhood centres and active street frontages which bring together those who work, live and play in the vicinity" and, in paragraph 70 the need to "enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments" and ensuring "an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community services and facilities". It is our view that hot food takeaways help to achieve this and, without them, new local centres (particularly in the evenings) will merely become standalone supermarkets. Hot food takeaways are an important part of the local economy and add vibrancy to any local centre, particularly promoting foot traffic from the local area. In the wording of Policy EH8 the Council posits the use of opening hours restrictions, which it should use to control this important matter rather than geographical separation.

