

Jobs Must Come First

Written by Colin Marschall

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I am bewildered by the article in the Ledbury Reporter today which reports on Herefordshire Council's Local Development Framework (LDF) meeting where Mrs Crowe [Ledbury Traders Association] is reported as stating:

"Jobs must come first and housing come after. We have land for employment use allocated along the bypass; that's what we should look at first."

Mrs Crowe has previously opposed two UK companies who want to build on the very land she is talking about; one of these companies is quoted as offering up to 220 jobs, while the company it wants to move will also add a further 10 jobs to the local area if the application goes through.

Sainsbury's is the company offering these jobs, a UK national company that is one of the biggest 'grocers' in the country, who, I would say, it is very unlikely to be closing down any time soon. Some may say that this "land for employment" is meant for industrial usage, but Herefordshire Planning has already set a precedent by passing the application for Homebase, a *retail* outlet (which by the way attracted the same "death of the high street" comments), along the same road, so it would be difficult for it to refuse an application on those grounds.

I don't understand the mentality of someone who first opposes up to 230 jobs and then states "Jobs must come first".

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[This article and its headline have been edited, although the essence of the article remains intact]