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Dear Editor

Like Amber Rudd, Conservative Parliamentary spokeswoman for Hastings and Rye, we strongly oppose the ASDA superstore at Silverhill, and like her, we are concerned that if built, it would undermine the local stores at Silverhill and Bohemia. One result would be removal of shops and services currently within easy walking distance of thousands of residents. This will add to traffic as people are forced to drive, and for those without a car, lead to a loss of choice and reduction in quality of life.

We hope that Amber also appreciates that the building of the Bexhill to Hastings Link Road can only make the ASDA store a great deal more likely as Bexhill residents join in the traffic queues, and according to the transport assessment accompanying the planning application, would lead to such congestion that roundabouts and junctions near Silverhill will be unlikely to cope with the traffic – even before the BHLR is built. We have made these points to the planning authority (Hastings Borough) who were going to pass them on to East Sussex County Council, but we have not yet had a response.

The Asda store concept is an old fashioned car based development on an industrial estate that should instead be modernised as an accessible place of employment linked to actual and potential bus routes and close to where people live. The business parks associated with the Link Road would lead to yet more carbon dioxide producing car commuting. We don't all have cars.

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