



West Lothian
Council

A DEVELOPMENT CONTROL POLICY TO HANDLE PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR MOBILE SNACK BARS

INTRODUCTION

Because mobile snack bars can lead to traffic problems and reduce amenity, it is useful to have a framework for dealing with planning applications.

TEMPORARY PERMISSIONS

In order to retain control over snack bars and re-assess any impact they may have on an area, any permissions granted should be for a temporary period initially. This period could be 1 or 2 years, which would be long enough to assess their effects.

LOCATIONS

Main Routes

In rural areas there is often a conflict between the needs of the traders to attract business and amenity arguments which require a discreet location so that the snack bar is not detrimental to the appearance and character of the countryside. Therefore snack bars should only be approved along main routes in lay-bys which are partially screened from the road or in sections of roads which are set back from main routes.

Industrial Estates

Mobile snack bars are often on industrial estates and provide a service in areas which are often remote from normal shops. Provided the snack bar is located so that it does not cause an obstruction or any parking problems and is not detrimental to amenity, an industrial estate location would be acceptable.

Town or Village Centres

A Main Street location for a regular siting of a mobile snack bar would not usually be acceptable because of the poor appearance of the snack bars and the likelihood of them attracting passing traffic and causing congestion. However, it may be possible for a snack bar in a discreet location within a town centre to be acceptable.

General

Provided the location of a snack bar is not detrimental to amenity by reason of its appearance, or the introduction of an alien commercial element in to quiet rural areas, or causes congestion or traffic problems, it is likely to be acceptable.

SIGNS

It may be reasonable for snack bars in appropriate rural locations to have advance warning signs. However, these must be mobile so that they can be removed when the snack bar is not in use or no longer on site. They must be of a high standard and not unnecessarily large or obtrusive. It is important to remember here, that the Highways Department often object to any signs being located within the highways verge. The snack bar would obviously have to obtain their permission in addition to Advertisement Consent from the Council.