

Planning Division
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Unit 5
Triangle Business Park
Pentrebach
Merthyr Tydfil

Eich cyf / Your ref P/26/0115

Ein cyf / Our ref 26/SW-8175

07 October 2026

Dear Sir/Madam,

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (WALES)
ORDER 2012:**

Cyfarthfa Retail Park North Swansea Road Merthyr Tydfil

Erection of drive-thru restaurant (Class A3) with associated parking, servicing, landscaping and engineering works.

I refer to your consultation of 1st June 2026 regarding the above application, and advise that the Welsh Government as highway authority for the A470 trunk road directs that planning permission is not granted at this time as the applicant has provided insufficient information to determine the application.

The applicant must provide the following information to support this application or resubmit the application with the following details:

- 1) A detailed capacity and operational assessment of the A470/Swansea Road (Gellideg) Roundabout.

The Welsh Government has considered the additional information submitted in response to its previous Holding Direction. Whilst the further information regarding trip generation, trip type and distribution is noted, it does not adequately demonstrate the operational impact of the proposed development on the A470/Swansea Road (Gellideg) Roundabout.

The assessment shall:

- a) Include observed queue length and delay information for all roundabout approaches, including the A470 northbound and southbound arms, sufficient to establish and validate existing operating conditions.

- b) Be supported by appropriate junction capacity modelling, calibrated and validated against representative observed traffic flows, queue lengths and delays.
- c) Assess robust worst-case conditions, having regard to peak retail trading periods, weekend shopping peaks and relevant seasonal variations.
- d) Assess existing traffic conditions, the anticipated opening year, opening year plus 5 years and opening year plus 10 years.
- e) Apply appropriate TEMPro traffic growth and account for traffic associated with committed and extant development in order to provide a robust assessment of cumulative impacts.
- f) Undertake sensitivity testing to demonstrate the effect of reasonable alternative trip generation and distribution assumptions, particularly where diverted, linked or pass-by trips have been assumed.
- g) Provide a clear summary of Ratio of Flow to Capacity (RFC), queue lengths and delays for all assessment scenarios within the main body of the report.
- h) Consider the interaction between the A470/Swansea Road (Gellideg) Roundabout and the Swansea Road/Cyfarthfa Retail Park access roundabout, including the potential for queues to extend between the junctions and affect the safe and efficient operation of the A470 trunk road.

Whilst the submitted information compares the predicted development traffic with existing A470 traffic flows and identifies the associated percentage changes, this does not in itself demonstrate the operational effect of the development upon the A470/Swansea Road (Gellideg) Roundabout.

The percentage increase in traffic on the A470 alone is not considered sufficient to establish the operational impact of the development. Additional traffic associated with the development may alter turning and circulating movements, which can affect the availability of gaps for traffic entering from other approaches. Consequently, even where the overall percentage increase in A470 traffic is relatively small, changes in the pattern of movements through the Cyfarthfa Retail Park Access roundabout junction may influence queue lengths and delays on the A470 approaches. Appropriate junction modelling is therefore required to demonstrate the operational impact of the development and the potential for queuing to extend towards or onto the A470 trunk road.

The Welsh Government therefore requires the above information to demonstrate that the proposed development would not materially exacerbate congestion, delay or queuing at the A470/Swansea Road (Gellideg) Roundabout, or result in conditions that could adversely affect the safe and efficient operation of the A470 trunk road.

Should the assessment identify a material increase in congestion, delay, queuing or operational pressure at the A470/Swansea Road (Gellideg) Roundabout, appropriate mitigation measures shall be identified and assessed. Where no mitigation is proposed, robust evidence shall be provided to demonstrate that the residual impact on the safe and efficient operation of the A470 trunk road would be acceptable.

If you have any further queries, please forward to the following Welsh Government Mailbox:

Lgc_development_control-south@Gov.Wales

Yours faithfully

Rhodri Thomas



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