

McDonald's plan splits townfolk

A MCDONALD'S restaurant with a drive-through is being considered for the shopping mall project in Périgueux town centre. In the land of foie gras and truffles, how welcome are fast food restaurants? We asked residents for their opinions.

"I really don't care, but why are they trying to wake up this sleepy town? Let it rest in peace. There are already 30,000 McDos all over the world — that's enough isn't it?"

Jean-François Dupon, retired

"This kind of establishment does nothing to help children discover food — and look at the results in the USA! Cola plus McDo equals sugar and fat. We are lucky enough to live in a region where we can eat healthy products from either our gardens or local producers. For those that like the idea of another McDo, they should read *Toxin*, by Robin Cook. After reading that, if you still want to eat in McDo then you haven't understood anything."

Jean-Marc Douat, 64, retired

"The new commercial centre could be a good motor for all the shops here that have been overshadowed by the two big industrial estates outside the town. It will also bring a bit of life back here and make the town centre bigger. To be honest, whether it be McDo, KFC or any other I can't see a problem, why not?"

Nicolas Royer, 23, technician

"There are already two, in Marsac and Trélissac, and I think that is enough. But if a McDo does open in the centre of town it will have a lot of customers, especially students who don't want to eat in the school canteen!"

Joséphine Florez, 21, student

"There are already enough snack food places of various sorts. Périgueux is depopulating, and those who do live here have means and ambitions that rise above American fast food."

Carole Duverneulle, 38, secretary

"I'm for it! It will be a lot better for students."

Julie Huguenin, 16, student

"I can't believe they'd even be considering this. The centre of town should have fewer cars in it, not more, and a drive-through would bring in far too many vehicles. I can imagine that the restaurants and cafés around it wouldn't be too happy either."

Odile Jamme, civil servant



Annual pants parade gives town the slip

LOOKS of surprise, confusion and amusement could be seen on bystanders' faces as the annual Fête du Slip, the Pants Party, paraded through the streets of Périgueux on June 20. For the past five years the Fédération Périgourdine de Mobile Clubbing, organises the event to celebrate the humble pair of pants. This year they met as usual at the old band stand, Allée Tourny and then paraded through the streets of Périgueux, chanting and singing the praises of pants while condemning the wearing of boxer shorts and g-strings.

Will Périgueux be lucky for candidate Hollande?

By KIRSTEN STROUD

FORMER Socialist leader François Hollande, who aims to be the party's candidate in the 2012 presidential election, received a warm welcome on a visit to Périgueux — and said he believed the town would bring him luck.

After visiting local businesses, he addressed a party public meeting at the Filature hall that attracted an audience of 2,000, including most of the Socialist Party MPs and mayors of the département.

Mr Hollande presented himself as a man of the people, declaring that he would be an "exceptional president — an exceptionally normal president".

His slogan is *Proximité, Clarté et Volonté* — proximity, clarity and determination. He was suitably forthright when he spoke of helping young people get a good start in life through education and employment, of reviewing nuclear power in France and of bringing back "the French revolutionary dream of a strong and dynamic republic that respects liberty, fraternity and equality".

Local Socialist Party member Martine Lechelle, who lives in Chantérac, told *The Advertiser*:

"I think he makes people feel more involved in their country."



Invited to follow Mr Hollande during his visit, she said: "He's very approachable and down to earth. I felt very at ease with him and not at all intimidated. He has a good sense of humour and he even asked me to *tutoie* him (talk to him in the *tu* person not *vous*). It felt very strange to do, but he insisted. "He seems to have the nation's interest at heart, not his own personal agenda, and he makes every person feel important, whatever walk of life they come from or whatever job they do. I saw this when he visited a factory. He took the time to speak to the workers and seemed genuinely interested in what they had to say."

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I will be an exceptional president — an exceptionally normal president

François Hollande

Such enthusiasm was echoed at the Filature hall, where the audience rose to their feet stamping, clapping and chanting when Mr Hollande made his way to the stage. He received a similar standing ovation at the end of his speech. Whether this support will spread widely enough to get him through the first electoral rounds to become the Socialist candidate for the presidency remains to be seen, but Mr Hollande, who is MP for Tulle in Corrèze, sees his rousing reception in Périgueux as a good omen.

The last time he visited, it was to support Michel Moyrand in his campaign to become the town's mayor, and he hopes the success of the Socialists in that election will be reflected in his own presidential run.



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