

New service station to welcome Co-op to A1 site

The Co-op is to open a store on the forecourt of a new petrol station services on the A1 next month as part of a new nationwide franchise.

The convenience store chain says the store is one of seven new branches which will be launched across the UK as part of the new deal with petrol forecourt business EG On The Move.

The new Macmerry Services has already confirmed the arrival of McDonalds on the land at the Gladsmuir junction, which was once home to Raceland.

A planning application for new signage planned for the services has added the Co-op to the names moving in as well as Subway, Starbucks and Greggs.

Thrill-seekers paradise Raceland closed its doors six years ago and the land was taken on by Euro Garage Ltd.

Following the closure of the go kart track it became a target for fly-tippers and fire bugs before the main building was demolished.

Work on the site, which has planning permission for a petrol station, McDonald's drive thru, and retail units along with a builders yard and two trade warehouses, began last year.

A spokesperson for Co-op, said: "The whole team is delighted to be preparing to launch the new Co-op store.

"It is also very exciting to be opening the brand new store

which combines Co-op's convenience expertise with EG On The Move's petrol forecourt business.

"We are looking forward to welcoming our members and customers into their Co-op.

"Our aim is to operate at the heart of local life and we have worked to develop the range, choice and added services to create a compelling offer to serve our community, conveniently."

Co-op is one of the world's largest consumer-owned co-operatives. Its member-owners own the business and play an intrinsic part in the governance of the organisation, enjoying a wide number of benefits including member-only price savings across everyday essentials, and personalised offers via the Co-op Membership App.

Zuber Issa, CEO, EG On The Move, said: "EG On The Move is an acknowledged petrol forecourt and convenience retail destination operator, and we are delighted to have the opportunity to collaborate with Co-op to roll out their new convenience store formats.

"Following on from this seven store trial, we look forward to working with Co-op to consider other locations across the network.

"Co-op is a well-established convenience operator, respected in the market and a recognised consumer brand, and this partnership not only promises to enhance our convenience store offer but it will also ensure our customers have access to exceptional fuel retail services including EV charging, a wide choice of essential and premium grocery and merchandise along with an enjoyable food service experience."

By Marie Sharp Local Democracy Reporter