

Chipping Barnet Liberal Democrats Gasworks Survey Results

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We'd like to thank everyone who returned our Community Survey about the developments planned for the Albert Road, New Barnet, Gasworks site. We've had an amazing response (over 150 replies) with many residents not only returning the form but also adding comments and encouragement, and some even attaching letters.

The replies to date are tabulated below. Our website (see foot of page) will be updated as more forms are returned and the percentages re-calculated.

The Council's Planning Brief (2000) earmarked the Gasworks site for residential, office, retail and leisure use. Do you think part of the site should still be used for leisure purposes?

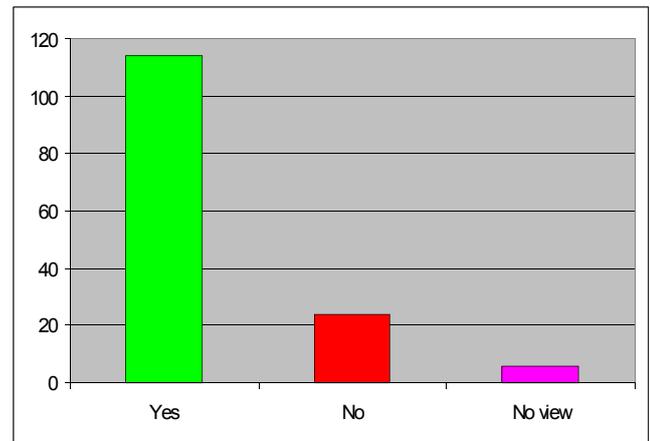
"Youth facilities."

"Hopefully with special appeal to young people."

"For the youth of New & East Barnet."

"A new swimming pool is long overdue."

"Use the gasworks site to access the JCoSS school not green space."



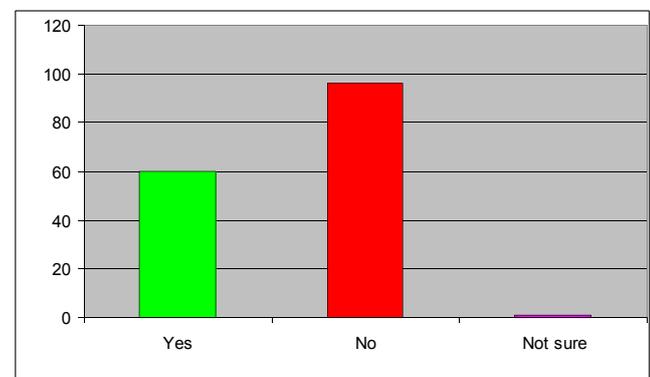
Do you feel that the gasworks site is a good location for a superstore?

"We don't need another general grocer in this area."

"There are adequate supermarkets in the area, it will effect smaller shops if any more appear in such a small area."

"Overkill."

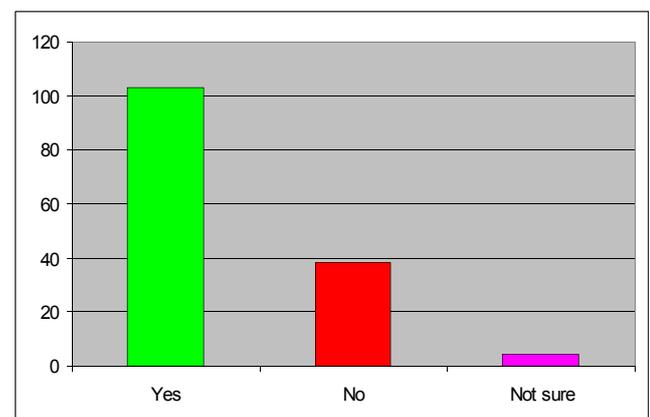
"Yes, but a DIY superstore."



Do you think that it is too close to other supermarkets?

Many respondents mentioned the local Sainsburys, and supermarkets within easy driving distance:- Asda Southgate, Tesco Potters Bar & Borehamwood, Waitrose Barnet & Whetstone, Budgens East Barnet, Tesco Express East Barnet Road.

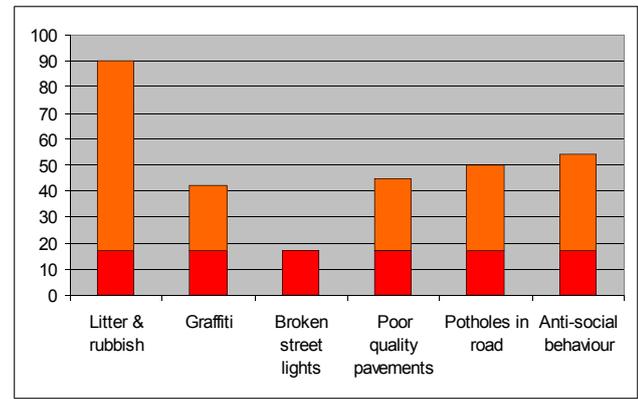
Other respondents suggested that more competition for Sainsburys was desirable.



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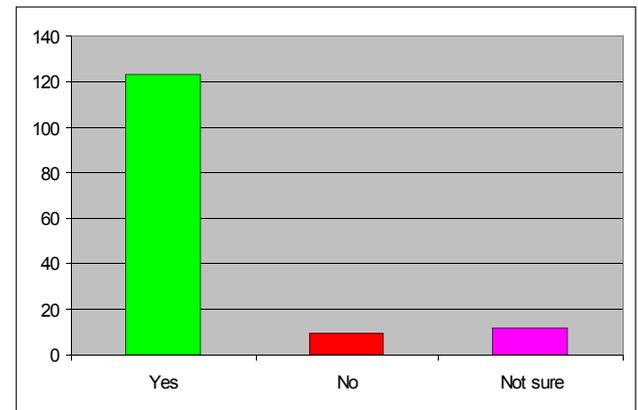
Do you think a supermarket will make any of these problems worse?

The 12% of respondents who ticked the box for 'Broken street lights' also ticked all the other 5 boxes, indicating their negative attitude to any new supermarket. Abandoned trolleys were also mentioned.



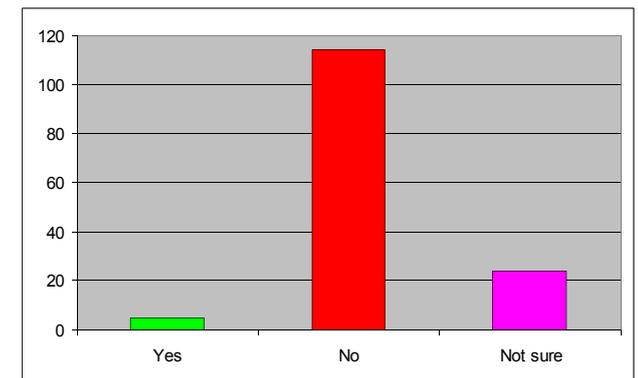
Do you think a supermarket will cause more traffic congestion?

"Most definitely yes."
"Congestion in this area is very bad already."
"New Barnet needs no more traffic especially lorries and vans loading."
"There is often a continuous traffic jam in East Barnet Road and Station Road."
"A retail park will cause chaos."
"This needs careful planning."



Tesco is going to ask the Council to turn 10 parking places in Albert Road into a loading bay, they say there is ample parking in the area.

Many of the 'NO' responses were underlined or marked with an exclamation mark.
"Absolutely NOT."
"Rubbish, there's very little parking in the area."
"My road is daily jammed with commuter cars."



The high number of returned survey forms indicates that this is a sensitive issue in New Barnet. A majority were against the development of a superstore in this area, but a significant minority favoured the increased competition for Sainsburys.

The replies to the questions on this page show an overwhelming appreciation of the problems that a new superstore could bring if not properly planned.

As Asda have already acquired the site, and have been in negotiation with the Council for some time, it seems inevitable that a Planning Application for a new store will be submitted.

From the survey results the Chipping Barnet Liberal Democrats have concluded that the people of New Barnet and the surrounding area are not unanimously for or against the development, but are very concerned about how it will effect their environment. To gain Lib Dem approval any proposal would have to include a 'Leisure' facility (probably youth focused) and a carefully thought out traffic management scheme, preferably incorporating traffic to and from the new JCoSS school. The Council should be prepared to consider radical traffic management solutions such as the pedestrianisation of East Barnet Road and a one-way system, although the present Council do not have a good track record on progressive forward planning.