

For release

NEW BARNET DEMANDS NEW VISION

- Residents speak out against supermarket plans at community consultation.

New Barnet, London, July 21 2008

A community-led consultation organised by local residents last weekend showed the depth of opposition to two giant 24-hour superstores proposed by Tesco and ASDA for the centre of New Barnet.

Organised by the SAVE NEW BARNET CAMPAIGN, the Community Consultation was held between 10am and 4.00pm on Saturday 19th July at the New Barnet Community Centre on Victoria Road.

Over 250 members of the local community attended, as did East Barnet Ward councillors Robert Rams and Joanna Tambourides. They were shown various displays including the campaign's objections to Tesco and ASDA's plans; a range of photos showing the area's failing infrastructure (sewers, water and electric supplies), and a presentation showing the threat to local businesses from the proposed developments.

Also on display was the 'Vision for New Barnet' document, which is based on views that came out of the public meeting on 3rd April and subsequent input from the public. The community were asked for their views on the document, which was well-received and praised for its positive approach. Additional suggestions made on the day included a number of pleas for leisure and sports facilities; a venue for cultural activities such as drama, art, recitals and music; allotments, and, most importantly, a strong desire to keep the "Victorian village" feel of the area.

Many attendees stressed the need to fight the destruction that corporate greed would have on their friendly community. Local resident Jacqueline Higgs-Howson said: "It was a good exhibition that shows the 'regeneration' for what it really is - a badly thought-through exercise from two huge companies that do not give a damn what our community looks like - as long as they make money!"

David Howard, spokesperson for the SAVE NEW BARNET CAMPAIGN, says that the support from the public was "most welcome" and would "encourage the campaign group to keep up the battle to protect and enhance their Victorian suburb in a sympathetic way".

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Notes to Editors

The SAVE NEW BARNET CAMPAIGN was set up by New Barnet Community Association in response to concerns from residents about Tesco and ASDA plans to build 24-hour superstores in New Barnet, London Borough of Barnet.

Further details of the SAVE NEW BARNET CAMPAIGN and the 'Vision for New Barnet' can be found at www.newbarnet.org.uk

For further information, please contact:

David Howard, spokesperson

Tel. 020 8440 2008 or 07958 509 787

Email david@dhpsltd.co.uk