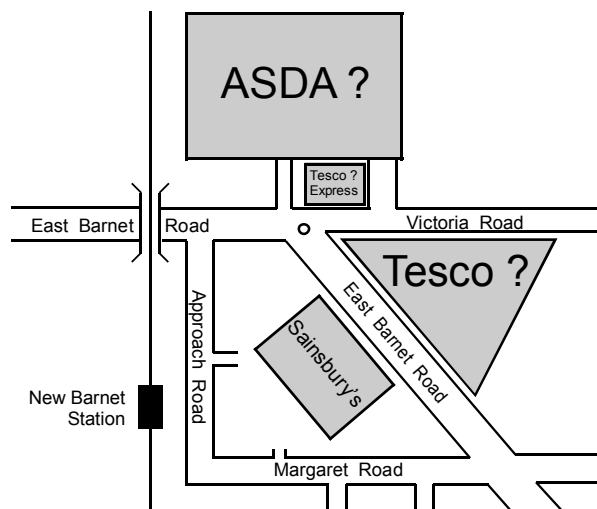


Save New Barnet

Newsletter

1st December 2010



Dear Friends,

Welcome to another roundup of news from the Save New Barnet Campaign.

New Barnet Town Centre Framework

On Monday 29th November 2010, Barnet Council approved the New Barnet Town Centre Framework. The document sets out a planning masterplan for New Barnet and confirms that there is no need for an additional supermarket.

The Save New Barnet Campaign welcomes the news, which should put an end to the last few years of uncertainty. It is encouraging to see businesses moving into units that had fallen vacant opposite Sainsbury's.

No individual or organisation alone made this happen. This has been about a whole community speaking up and making their voices heard. To everyone who has taken the time to send a letter, attend a meeting or sign a petition over the past three years, a massive **THANK YOU**.

We also note the support of elected representatives who finally showed themselves willing to listen to the vast majority of local residents and, crucially, to act upon their wishes.

However this is only the end of the beginning. The hard work starts here. We are already looking forward to working with potential investors and developers to improve the heart of our community. This includes ASDA and Tesco who, between them, own several derelict sites in the centre of New Barnet.

Using this new Town Centre Framework and the community's Vision for New Barnet as a guide, rundown properties in the local area can be brought back into use to enhance New Barnet. This document will help us to ensure this is done through good-quality traditional design and imaginative use of space to provide public amenities, non-food shops and much-needed family homes.

You can download a copy of the approved framework document here:

<http://tinyurl.com/nbtcfnov10>

Asda

No further news of their major development plan.

A new report from the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) called "Supermarket-led development: Asset or liability?" uses Asda's proposal for the Gas Works site as an example of "how not to do it". The report states that the prioritising of cars over people would have made "residents' lives grim and the poor quality housing contained in the plans would have made it "an unpleasant place to live".

www.cabe.org.uk/publications/supermarket-led-development

Tesco

No further news of their major development plan.

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You may have seen in the local press that Tesco have plans to open yet another Express store, this time on the site of the former Rising Sun pub / Harvester restaurant in Oakleigh Road North. Residents and businesses in the area have already raised a large petition against Tesco's plans and gained the support of Theresa Villiers MP.

Groupama House

In early November there was a small exhibition in the foyer of Groupama House (one of the 1960s office blocks on Station Road). Origin Housing Group is planning to remodel the building into flats and offices and reclad the exterior in brick and wood. There were no detailed plans on display as they were at an early stage and they were seeking feedback on the principles of their ideas.

We gather that the representatives of the developers were impressed with the number of residents who were actively interested in the future of their local area. The battle over Tesco and Asda has certainly ignited community interest here in New Barnet.

Feedback we have received indicates that people attending the exhibition believe that this is how a consultation should be run. We hope that in future other developers will also take this approach of involving the local community in meaningful consultations at an early stage of the development process.

JCoSS

A "JCoSS Residents Liaison Group" set up by Cllr Robert Rams has met on two occasions (20th July & 20th September 2010). The long promised minutes of the first meeting were finally published on the JCoSS website in late October. They can be found here: www.jcoss.org/jcoss-and-the-community

It is unclear when the minutes of the second meeting will appear, or when the group will meet again. We continue to press for a clearly constituted, open and public liaison group, directly facilitated by the school, with local residents groups officially represented.

JCoSS held an open evening for the surrounding community to visit the school on 1st November. It was a good opportunity for local residents to see for themselves the impressive facilities that have been constructed for the new school and to meet some of the senior staff.

Liaison with local residents is now the responsibility of the Deputy Head, Patrick Moriarty, and any concerns should be directed to him (pmoriarty@jcoss.barnet.sch.uk or 020 8344 2220).

East Barnet School

There will be a chance for residents to tour the new East Barnet School building in January. Details are still to be confirmed but we understand that it should take place at 5.30pm on Monday 17th January, before the Chipping Barnet Residents Forum.

Chipping Barnet Residents Forum

The Forum is a regular public meeting where residents in the north of the Borough can publicly ask questions and express their views about the work of Barnet Council to a panel of councillors and officers. Questions can be submitted a few days in advance to enable the council to research answers from relevant staff. The written responses provided can be challenged and discussed at the meeting. It's an important platform to talk passionately about the local matters that concern you most.

The next meeting will be held at 6.30 pm on Monday 17th January at East Barnet School, Chestnut Grove, East Barnet, EN4 8PU. Questions should be submitted to the forum administrator Pauline Bagley (pauline.bagley@barnet.gov.uk or 020 8359 2023).

Links to the action notes of previous Residents Forum meetings can be found via our website: www.newbarnet.org.uk/action/residentsforum.php

Forthcoming Roadworks

New Barnet seems currently to be pockmarked with countless holes in the road and temporary traffic signals. To find out what roadworks are planned for your road, visit this website:
<http://public.londonworks.gov.uk/roadworks>

Friends of Victoria Recreation Ground

As we mentioned in the last newsletter, a "Friends of Victoria Recreation Ground", is soon to be set up through the New Barnet Community Association. A friends organisation is a way of accessing funding to improve park facilities. A similar group, under the wing of East Barnet Residents Association, has successfully directed investment into Oak Hill Park. If you would like to get involved, please contact Barbara Howard at New Barnet Community Centre (newbarnetca@gmail.com or 020 8441 7044).

New Barnet War Memorial

Following Remembrance Day, scaffolding has now been erected around the war memorial to enable cleaning work to take place. £1400 is still required to fully complete the restoration and add a plaque containing the names of the fallen from World War II. If you wish to make a donation please contact Catherine Loveday at 17 Lullington Garth, London, N12 7AP. Cheques should be payable to NBCA Memorial Fund.

Newsletter

Do pass this newsletter on to your friends and neighbours. If you have received this newsletter 'second hand' make sure you get your own 'direct' in future. Simply sign up on our website or drop us an email asking to be added to the distribution list.

Copies of our previous newsletters are still available from www.newbarnet.org.uk/documents/publicity

Season's Greetings from the Save New Barnet Campaign Team. We thank you for your support through the last three years and look forward to a positive 2011 for New Barnet.

Regards,
Save New Barnet Campaign Team

Save New Barnet Campaign

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post: % The Community Centre, 48/50 Victoria Road, New Barnet, EN4 9PF

Save New Barnet Campaign is a non-political group of local residents fighting for a better New Barnet. The group seeks to inform the local community about potential changes to the area, and oppose inappropriate developments. The group aims to promote a clear vision for how New Barnet could be developed for the benefit of the community based on the views of local people. The campaign is funded entirely by donations from individuals. It is not bankrolled by any company or commercial organisation.