

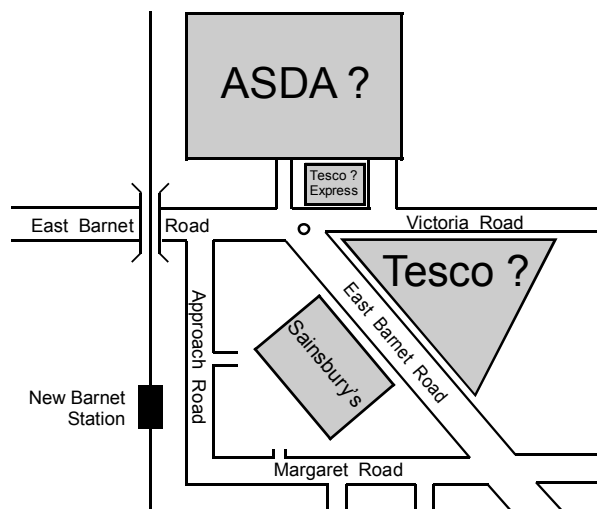
Save New Barnet

Newsletter

22nd November 2009

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our latest update. As we mentioned in the 28th October Newsletter, the most pressing issues currently are the "Development Framework" documents for both the whole Borough and specifically New Barnet.



Local Development Framework (LDF)

Barnet Council have now opened their public consultation on the borough wide "Local Development Framework - Core Strategy - Direction of Travel" document. The LDF will eventually replace the current Unitary Development Plan (UDP) and it sets out the types of buildings that will be encouraged in particular areas. All future planning applications will be judged against the LDF. The closing date for submission of public responses to the LDF consultation is 4th January 2010.

Why should I care about the LDF?

Your council are making plans for the next 15 years yet the buildings constructed could last for the next century, fundamentally changing the character of the area. The major issues are:

- Change of character of the suburbs
- Less houses and more flats
- Intensification of development by building higher and including more shops and supermarkets
- More traffic

If you have the time and inclination, please do have a look at the LDF. You should note that the actual policies appear in 'blue boxes' - they are the important parts used to judge planning applications, rather than the more 'user friendly' text that surround them. Remember that the devil is always in the detail.

The explicit reference in the previous draft to Cat Hill has been removed (East Barnet Road remains), but the entire A110 is still shown on the plan as a suitable location for higher density mixed use development. Station Road has already had most of its houses redeveloped as blocks of flats. It would appear that the council's planners would like to see that pattern continued all the way up to Cockfosters, as the back up papers still include Cat Hill.

If the LDF states encouragement of intensive development in a particular area, it will be hard for planning committees to reject applications which fit this criteria. The LDF could give the green light for developers to construct inappropriate, out of scale and out of character buildings.

The incorrect definition of the shopping area in New Barnet as a "District Town Centre" actually encourages the big supermarkets to insist that we 'need' their huge developments. New Barnet needs to be reclassified to be the "Local Centre" that it actually is.

What Should I Do?

Members of the Save New Barnet Campaign team are currently working their way through the documents to identify the particular areas of concern. We will be back in contact soon with some suggested ways in which you can voice your opinion simply and effectively. We may need you to get delivering leaflets, so please be ready to act.

Where Do I Find Out More?

The LDF and associated documents should also be available to view in libraries, and can also be downloaded online at: <http://tinyurl.com/barnetldf>

Chipping Barnet Residents Forum

Barnet Council hold a local public meeting 6 times a year for residents to ask questions to a panel of Councillors and Officers. Despite the name (it actually refers to the parliamentary constituency), the Chipping Barnet Forum also covers New Barnet issues.

The next meeting will include a presentation about the LDF. Therefore if you want to find out what your council have to say about their plan and ask questions, get along to Chipping Barnet Library at 6.30pm on Tuesday 24th November.

Links to details of Residents Forum meetings can be found here: www.newbarnet.org.uk/action/residentsforum.php

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New Barnet Development Strategy

You may have read in the local paper that we have been pushing to have the specific New Barnet Development Strategy published. We understand that it was completed by external consultants GVA Grimley back in September but it has been sitting on a shelf in planning offices since then.

Campaigners in New Barnet have been asking Barnet Council for the last three years for a clear development strategy for the area. A document has been repeatedly promised as being published "imminently" or "next month", but has never appeared.

Recently Barnet's planners have been devoting all their time to the massive £4.5bn 'new town' proposal sited between Brent Cross and Cricklewood, leaving everywhere else in the borough in limbo.

Sadly it seems that the New Barnet strategy has again been kicked into the long grass, where it is likely to get lost due to the Council elections in May 2010.

In the meantime, the shopping area in New Barnet continues to get run down as nobody wants to invest due to the uncertainty over future plans. The semi derelict properties at the Victoria Road / East Barnet Road junction don't help. And who owns these? Tesco.

ASDA Advert Judged To Be 'Misleading'

In late May, ASDA published a four page advert as a 'wraparound' on the Barnet Times. (It appeared a few days before ASDA carried out an extensive local phone survey, but interestingly the results of that poll have never been published.) A local resident made a complaint to the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) about the claims made in the newspaper advert.

In a recently published judgement, ASDA was found to have breached the 'truthfulness' and 'substantiation' clauses of the advertising code. The ASA have ruled that ASDA's misleading map of supermarket sites in New Barnet must not be used in advertising material again.

You can read the whole judgement here: <http://tinyurl.com/asa4nov>

'Poor' Supermarket Design

In a major speech at Tate Modern last week, the outgoing chair of the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment spoke about the problems of retail led redevelopment of town centres.

Sir John Sorrell said *"Our concern is not only the quality of this kind of development – which is generally very poor – but the way in which architecture and places are created in the image of the retailer"*.

He specifically mentioned New Barnet, stating *"both Asda and Tesco are pushing weak schemes here against strong local opposition"*, and that *"the Asda scheme fails on every level: it's car focussed and architecturally confused with poor housing tacked on"*.

You can read the whole speech here: www.cabe.org.uk/articles/delight

Newsletter

This newsletter (and the previous ones) can be downloaded from the website as a printable PDF. Why not print off some copies and distribute them to your neighbours to keep them up to date with the latest news?

www.newbarnet.org.uk/documents/publicity

Thank you for your continued support

Regards,
Save New Barnet Campaign Team

Save New Barnet Campaign

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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.