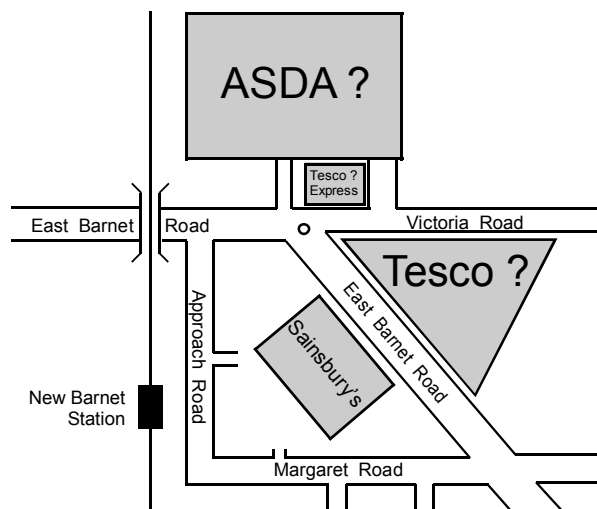


Save New Barnet

Newsletter

24th March 2009



Dear Friends,

Welcome to another update from the Save New Barnet Campaign.

ASDA Superstore & Flats

The ASDA planning application for the gasworks site is 'LIVE'.

The **DEADLINE** for the public to submit their comments is **1st April 2009**.

Have **YOU** sent **YOUR** letter yet?

The three biggest issues that arise from ASDA's proposals are:

- Traffic
- Destroying local businesses when there is no need for an additional supermarket
- 211 small flats in a market that is already oversupplied

How To Object

Objections to the ASDA planning application should be made in writing, clearly stating your name and address.

Letters should be sent to:

London Borough of Barnet
Planning, Housing and Regeneration Service
Building 4, North London Business Park
Oakleigh Road South
London
N11 1NP

Emails should be sent to: asda.application@barnet.gov.uk

You **MUST** include the application reference number B/00200/09 clearly on all communications.

Deadline: 1st April 2009

EVERY LETTER COUNTS

Example ASDA Objection Letter

If you do not have time to write your own letter, or want help getting started, use our example letter. A copy is attached to this newsletter. Simply add your name & address details and sent it to the address shown.

Further copies can be downloaded from:

www.newbarnet.org.uk/action/asdaobjectionlettermar09.pdf

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Public Meeting

New Barnet Community Association organised a Public Meeting on Thursday 19th March 2009 at St James' Church, East Barnet Road, New Barnet. The meeting was attended by:

- Theresa Villiers, MP for Chipping Barnet
- Robert Rams & Joanna Tambourides, East Barnet Ward Councillors
- Martin Cowie, Head of Planning and Development Management for Barnet Council
- Save New Barnet Campaign Team
- 170 members of the public

ASDA declined to attend the meeting to explain their plans and answer questions. (You may recall that ASDA also failed to attend the previous public meeting held on 3rd April 2008 at St James' Church to discuss superstore developments by Tesco & ASDA in New Barnet.)

The public meeting was arranged at short notice when it became apparent that neither the council nor the developer had any intention of holding one. As soon as the venue and date was confirmed, New Barnet Community Association wrote to ASDA, inviting them to attend. Sadly, despite their stated wish to engage with the community, ASDA decided not to send any representatives to the meeting after making a number of demands in the two days preceding the event which were impossible to meet at that late stage. ASDA then used this as justification for non-attendance; sending a lengthy statement to be read out in their absence.

Despite being unable to attend the public meeting, ASDA did have time to put out a press release and send letters to local residents criticising the meeting. The letter was mailed out before the meeting took place.

Meeting documents and reports are being added to our website:
www.newbarnet.org.uk/events/publicmeeting19mar09

Alternative Master Plan for the Gas Works Site

Despite ASDA and Tesco's attempts to brand us as a bunch of "NIMBYs", the Save New Barnet Campaign is far from "anti-development". Indeed, we're keener than most to see redundant sites in our local area brought back into use. However, we are determined to oppose any development which is inappropriate in terms of scale, design and use. After all, it is us and our community that will have to live with the effects of these projects long after the developers have moved on.

The kind of large-scale, multi-storey development that ASDA and Tesco are proposing is grossly inappropriate in a largely residential suburb like New Barnet, which is characterised by two or three storey buildings on a Victorian and Edwardian road network, and within a few hundred metres of the Green Belt.

We also know that it's not what local people want, because we've spent the last year asking their opinion for our community's "Vision For New Barnet". Amongst the hundreds of views, two things that came up again and again were "family houses" and "leisure facilities".

So, using the "Vision" as a guide, we commissioned some local architects to propose an alternative solution for the derelict gasworks site. The result is an inspiring plan that is grounded in commercial reality, but which makes the most of the site's potential and meets the real needs of our local community.

- 83 three storey three- and four-bed houses
- 45 three storey one- and two-bed flats
- Pedestrian-friendly residential streets
- 33 metre swimming pool with training pool and outdoor paddling/wet play area
- Leisure centre with youth club facilities
- Site fully integrated with an upgraded Victoria Recreation Ground
- 'Unzipping' (opening up) the two brooks which flow through the site
- 800-1000 sq. m. retail space in mixed use area (the amount recommended in three separate studies commissioned by Barnet Council, ASDA and Tesco)
- Better links with East Barnet Road

Take a look at the alternative plans online:
www.newbarnet.org.uk/events/publicmeeting19mar09

Petition

The Save New Barnet Campaign have had a stall outside Sainsburys for the last two Saturdays to collect more signatures on the petition. Many thanks to the hundreds who have come and signed.

We will be outside Sainsburys again on Saturday 28th March.

Can you spare a couple of hours to help collecting signatures? If so, please drop us an email

If you can't help on the stall, please print off a copy of the petition and get your friends, family and work colleagues to sign:

www.newbarnet.org.uk/documents/publicity/savenewbarnetpetitionform21aug08.pdf

How To Find Out More

Copies of the ASDA planning application can be viewed at East Barnet Library and Chipping Barnet Library. The documents are also available on the council's website: <http://tinyurl.com/asdaplans>

Newsletter

This newsletter (and previous ones) can be downloaded from the website as a printable PDF.

www.newbarnet.org.uk/documents/publicity

Why not print off some copies for your neighbours to let them know the latest campaign news? If they have internet access, please encourage them to sign up online to get their own copy direct by email.

Thank you for your continued support.

Regards,

Save New Barnet Campaign Team

Save New Barnet Campaign

website: www.newbarnet.org.uk

email: info@newbarnet.org.uk

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

date

address

To: London Borough of Barnet
Planning, Housing and Regeneration Service
Building 4, North London Business Park
Oakleigh Road South
London
N11 1NP

Re: **B/00200/09**

ASDA Planning Application, Gas Works Site, Albert Road, New Barnet

Dear Sir / Madam,

I would like to object to the planned scheme on the following grounds:

1. Huge increase in traffic.

ASDA's figures anticipate an extra 900 cars an hour will be attracted to their planned superstore. Along with the redeveloped JCoSS site, this means an extra 1,500 cars per hour using East Barnet Road and surrounding local roads.

2. The size of the development.

ASDA, Tesco and Barnet Council have carried out separate studies to work out how much additional retail space is needed in New Barnet. All calculate this figure to be between 600-800 sq metres – five times less than the 3,906 sq metres planned in the ASDA development.

3. Unsympathetic with the area's existing architecture.

The centre of New Barnet is largely made up of low-rise Victorian and Edwardian buildings. Any planned development should be in keeping with the existing vernacular architectural style.

4. Inappropriate housing for the area.

With over 100 one- and two-bedroom flats lying empty in the New Barnet area, there is no need for more accommodation of this type in New Barnet. What our community is crying out for is more family-sized houses.

5. Threat to independent shops and businesses.

A supermarket of this size would squeeze out the remaining independent shops and businesses in New Barnet, as well as having a knock-on effect in neighbouring areas such as East Barnet, Cockfosters and High Barnet.

Yours faithfully,

signature

full name (print)