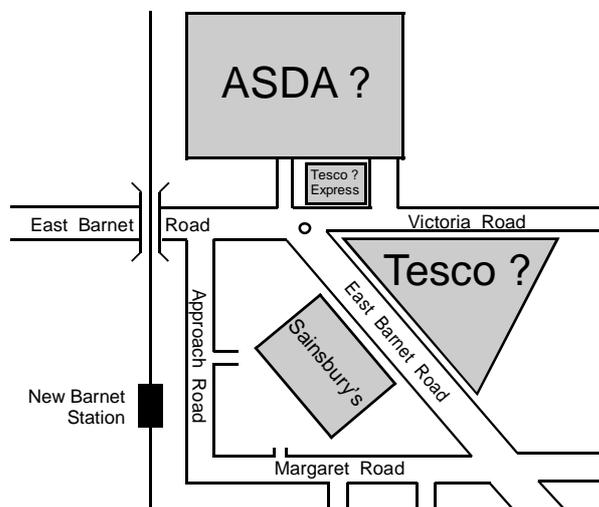


# Save New Barnet

## Newsletter

25th May 2010



Dear Friends,

Welcome to another news update from the Save New Barnet Campaign.

### Local Elections

Following the recent Barnet Council elections we congratulate the successful candidates, and trust that they will spend their four years as councillors listening to and representing the views of the voters in New Barnet.

We were pleased to see that all three candidates returned in East Barnet Ward came out in strong opposition to the proposed Asda and Tesco superstore developments in New Barnet. In their election literature, Cllrs Tambourides, Rams and Evangeli were also unequivocal in their support for Option 1 in the "New Barnet Town Centre Framework" consultation - a consolidated high street with no new large scale retail developments.

We're sure that they have communicated this very clear stance to all their fellow councillors, and to the council officers who are responsible for drawing up planning documents and undertaking consultations.

### JCoSS Public Meeting

A public meeting is being held at 8pm on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May to discuss JCoSS, and particularly the School Travel Plan. It is your chance to have your questions answered, prior to the school opening in September.

The meeting is being hosted and chaired by the New Barnet Community Association (NBCA) at New Barnet Community Centre, 48/50 Victoria Road, EN4 9PF. Present at the meeting will be the Chair of Governors and other JCoSS representatives, plus Barnet Council representatives.

Traffic in New Barnet is an issue that concerns many residents and is also central to the debate about the Tesco & Asda proposals. There is local apprehension about the amount of private car traffic the new school will generate along narrow residential roads.

A proportion of the pupils are expected to travel by private coach. The original planning documents indicated two coach drop off and pick up points, New Barnet Station and Mount Pleasant. Despite asking Council Planning Officers for clarification at the Residents Forum meetings for the last two years, it has never been revealed exactly where the pick up points are to be located.

We now understand that the school is concerned about the safety of pupils walking the last 500m to and from the two points, and so would prefer to bring the coaches directly into their secure site. A recent JCoSS newsletter published on their website states that five coach routes will be run, serving Borehamwood, Edgware, Finchley, Golders Green, Muswell Hill, Northwood, Radlett and Redbridge.

A condition of the JCoSS planning permission is that 6 months before the school opens, a travel plan must be submitted to, and approved by, the council. The drawing up of travel plans should involve consultation with the local community. Following representations to JCoSS back in March, this public meeting has been organised by NBCA to enable some local consultation to take place at this late stage.

## **What is JCoSS?**

The Jewish Community Secondary School (JCoSS) is a new school for 1350 pupils in a new building under construction at Westbrook Crescent, New Barnet. JCoSS opens in September 2010 with a single year group. It will grow each year, until in 2017 it will contain a full complement of students aged 11-18.

The Westbrook Crescent site is currently part of East Barnet School, housing just the oldest three year groups. From September 2010, East Barnet School will for the first time be based on a single site, with all its 1350 pupils in a brand new building in Chestnut Grove, East Barnet.

East Barnet School had a single entrance in Westbrook Crescent. For JCoSS, this entrance will be just for pedestrians and only open at the beginning and end of the school day. The main entrance for JCoSS is via a 600m long new road built across Livingstone School's playing field. The road crosses Pymmes Brook on a new bridge and connects to the residential road network at the narrow corner where Castlewood Road and Northfield Road join.

The road and bridge was at the centre of major local campaign by BSCAEG (Barnet Safe Children And Environment Group) when the school applied for planning permission in 2007.

## **“New Barnet Town Centre Framework”**

We still await news on which of the three options proposed by the council has been chosen for the future development of New Barnet. Local residents, campaign groups and politicians, including Chipping Barnet MP Theresa Villiers, all endorse Option 1, the only one of the three options which does not include an additional new superstore in the centre of New Barnet.

## **Local Development Framework (LDF)**

Following the consultation which closed at the beginning of the year, the latest version of Barnet's LDF is now available online: <http://tinyurl.com/ldfmay2010>

It contains the following statement:

### ***“New Barnet Town Centre***

*Over 250 residents in the New Barnet area submitted a pro-forma objecting to the identification of their town centre and East Barnet Road as a thoroughfare having potential for mixed use development and residential infill.*

*The emerging Town Centre Framework for New Barnet will set out a vision for the town centre, options for delivering the vision and provide a framework for managing future change. The Framework is being prepared in the context of Barnet's Suburban Town Centres Strategy which aims to secure the vitality and viability of all the town centres in the borough. Reference to East Barnet Road as a thoroughfare with housing potential has been deleted from the Core Strategy.”*

Explicit reference to East Barnet Road may now have been removed, but the core policy remains to encourage development in New Barnet and along main transport routes.

Instead of waiting for the specific “New Barnet Town Centre Framework” to be published, the Barnet wide development plan states that New Barnet is a priority town centre "having a character more appropriate to higher density mixed use development".

The big issue remains that someone at the council wants to see major developments in New Barnet, such as those proposed by Tesco and Asda. It is not what local residents want, and not what the elected councillors say they want.

## **“Local Centre” not “District Centre”**

We continue to campaign to have New Barnet redesignated as a “Local Centre”, not a “District Centre”. The correct designation would offer some protection from major development proposals being prompted by applying inappropriate planning strategies to our local shopping area.

The Town Centre Framework document called New Barnet a "suburban railway village", rather different to the destination shopping centre that "District Centre" implies.

The latest LDF adds to the language complication by now referring to New Barnet as a "Priority Centre", whatever that is supposed to mean!

### **Chipping Barnet Residents Forum**

The next meeting will be held at 6.30 pm on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June, although a venue has yet to be announced.

### **Newsletter**

Do pass this newsletter on to friends and neighbours. If you have received this newsletter 'second hand', please sign up to receive your own copy by email on our website.

Copies of our previous newsletters are still available on our website:  
[www.newbarnet.org.uk/documents/publicity](http://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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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.