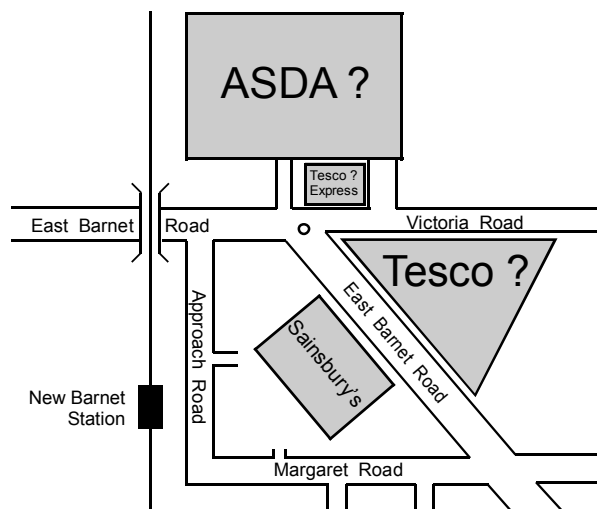


Save New Barnet

Newsletter

2nd September 2010



Dear Friends,

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

Local Development Framework (LDF)

A new version of the LDF will go before Barnet's Cabinet on 6th September. This important document sets out the development plan for the borough for the next 15 years.

In the latest version, the designation of New Barnet as a "priority centre" for mixed use development has been removed. They have also deleted the suggestion that East Barnet Road has potential for residential infill development.

More than 250 New Barnet residents submitted comments during the consultation period. Thank you to everyone who took the time to get involved. It is a positive demonstration of how many individuals working together can make change happen. You spoke in such numbers that councillors had to listen and council officers were forced to act.

The LDF still has weaknesses and a lack of detail, but that hopefully will be addressed during the final stage of public consultation this autumn.

Running to 348 pages, this document does not make for light reading, but it is interesting to see the comments submitted by Tesco and Asda. We found some of the submissions referring to Whetstone on page 230 quite intriguing. You can download a copy from: <http://tinyurl.com/ldfsep2010>

New Barnet Town Centre Framework

News of the progress of the specific planning document for New Barnet is still awaited. This is the document with three different options that the council opened to public consultation in the spring. "Option 1" (a consolidated and enhanced shopping area with no additional superstores) received overwhelming support from the public. A more detailed version is due for publication in November.

Tesco

We believe that the council have served a "Section 215" improvement notice over the state of 15 East Barnet Road. We look forward to this prominent site becoming less of an eyesore. It is unclear whether a similar notice has been issued for the other nearby derelict Tesco property at 7-11 Victoria Road.

Another Tesco Express opened on 25th August at Greenhill Parade, opposite the Odeon. Residents have told us that there is already a pattern forming of Tesco delivery lorries partially blocking the slip road used by vehicles turning left at the traffic lights.

Where else will this chain appear next? Tesco have planning permission to build an Express store at 7-11 Victoria Road but have not yet progressed this development.

Asda

Cleanup and decontamination of the gasworks site as was being proposed by Asda for this summer, but we have not seen anything happening yet.

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JCoSS “Community Liaison”

You will recall that in our last newsletter (19th July) we reported back on the public meeting held by New Barnet Community Association on 27th May to discuss issues about JCoSS prior to it opening to pupils this September. People living close to the school site received letters from Cllr Robert Rams inviting them to take part in a JCoSS Residents Liaison Group meeting that he was organising on 20th July. However only those who contacted Cllr Rams and successfully completed a phone interview were informed of the meeting venue (Livingstone School).

It should be noted that Cllr Rams was unhappy with our reporting of the secrecy and lack of clarity surrounding this meeting.

A letter dated 23rd July was distributed to residents by JCoSS stating that “minutes of that first meeting will be circulated shortly”. To our knowledge, no minutes have been publicly distributed. In mid August we asked Cllr Rams for a copy of the minutes but he was unable to provide them. Instead we invited him to write 100 words for this newsletter to outline what had happened at his meeting.

The following 347 words were supplied by Cllr Rams and are reproduced unedited.

As many of you are aware, following the recent public meeting held at the New Barnet Community Centre, I set up a JCOSS Residents Liaison Group with a view to fostering better relationships between the school and the local community. Since, I have personally delivered letters throughout the local area inviting residents to take part in the group.

We held our first meeting on 20th July. Whilst I acknowledge that this was not a public meeting, I will be, with the agreement of the Save New Barnet team, publishing the minutes of the meeting on their website. The forum has been designed as an opportunity for local residents to provide constructive feedback and promote communication between local residents and JCOSS.

Some of the key points to come out of the meeting were as follows:

- * The remit of the meetings are to
 - To promote communication between local residents and JCOSS.
 - To be a forum to discuss short and long term issues.*
- * Public meetings will be arranged as required to discuss certain issues*
- * It was agreed that a resident's open day would be a good idea and JCOSS will put forward possible dates at the next weekend*
- * Issues to be discussed at future meetings include:
 - Risk/traffic management for open days
 - The travel plan including parking and traffic management issues.
 - Building up trust with local residents
 - Communication with local residents
 - The potential environmental impact of the school on the neighbouring community
 - Phase 2 - demolition of East Barnet school building.
 - Use of the school facilities by local residential*
- * It was agreed that the meeting would be held on a bi-monthly basis.*

There were also reports from the Deputy Head of JCOSS and Site Manager.

I believe that the JCOSS Residents Liaison Group will allow us to work together to ensure the best future for both parties.

The next meeting date will be 20th September.

Can I thank the Save New Barnet Team for allowing me to use this forum to update you all.

Cllr Robert Rams

Robert Rams is a Councillor for East Barnet Ward and a Governor of JCoSS. Should you wish to follow up any of these points, or get involved in the liaison group, he can be contacted at cllr.r.rams@barnet.gov.uk or on 020 8446 7291.

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JCoSS “Community Liaison” (continued)

We look forward to receiving a copy of the minutes. It does seem rather odd that a multi-million pound school should have to rely on a local campaign website, run by unpaid volunteers, to communicate with the local community.

Over the last two months we have continued to hear comments from local residents:

- Inconsiderate parking by contractors blocking roads and driveways
- Long hours of building work (early starts, Saturdays and Sundays) breaking planning conditions
- Repeated use of narrow roads by large vehicles ignoring construction traffic plan

If you are being inconvenienced by JCoSS it is essential to let them know about every incident so that the problems can be addressed. The main contact is Ben Rich (ben@benrich.co.uk or 07713 509 134), but Cllr Rams has stated that he wants to hear about any problems (see above for his contact details). We therefore suggest contacting both Ben Rich AND Cllr Rams as soon as a problem occurs.

JCoSS Travel Plan

Questions about the School Travel Plan have been asked repeatedly at meetings of the Chipping Barnet Residents Forum for the last 3 years. No detailed answers have ever been given as we were told that the school had not finalised the travel plan. Council officers gave this reason again as recently as June. We were therefore very surprised to hear at the July Forum meeting that the travel plan had been completed in March, and was available from the school. The document does not appear on the JCoSS website, but will be supplied on request if you email the school (enquiries@jcoess.barnet.sch.uk).

Travel has always been the central issue of concern to residents from the time JCoSS was first proposed. At the public meeting in May, the chair of governors assured residents that travel issues, such as drop off and pick up parking by parents, would be controlled by a strong Home-School Agreement. Sadly the agreement published on the JCoSS website (www.jcoess.org) appears to contain no specific or detailed reference to transport to and from the school. We therefore hope that the new liaison group will be able to deal practically with this issue for the positive benefit of residents as well as the school.

Chipping Barnet Residents Forum

The forum is a public meeting where residents in the north of the Borough can ask questions about the work of Barnet Council to a panel of councillors and officers. The next meeting will be held at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 15th September, at Coppetts Wood Primary School, Coppetts Road, N10 1JS.

Anyone can submit questions in advance to the forum administrator Pauline Bagley (pauline.bagley@barnet.gov.uk or 020 8359 2023). This is your chance to get a response to local issues, from parking problems to major developments.

Councillor’s Surgery

Your local councillors hold regular ‘surgery’ sessions where you can drop in to speak to them face to face without an appointment. See www.newbarnet.org.uk/action/councillors

East Barnet Ward councillors hold their next surgery on Saturday 4th September at New Barnet Community Centre, Victoria Road, from 10.30 am to noon.

Traffic Lights – East Barnet Road / Margaret Road Junction

In the last newsletter we highlighted a proposal from Transport for London (TfL) to remove the traffic lights at the junction of East Barnet Road and Margaret Road. We have now received assurances from Barnet Councillors that there is no intention to remove these traffic signals and pedestrian crossings. However we have not had a clear response from TfL that they have removed this junction from their list. We will continue to watch for any developments on this issue.

Water Mains Renewal

Work is due to have started to renew main water supply pipes near the junction of East Barnet Road and Victoria Road. It is good news that part of our crumbling infrastructure is being replaced, but be prepared for traffic jams.

Store Watch

One of the strongest reasons against an additional superstore in New Barnet is that there is already an abundance of grocery retail provision in the area. For this reason, we keep a tally of supermarkets and convenience stores surrounding New Barnet. Small stores pop up and disappear quite regularly, so do let us know if you spot any new shops or others that have closed (our contact details are at the bottom of this newsletter). Store locations are plotted on this map: <http://tinyurl.com/nbstores>

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 from www.newbarnet.org.uk/documents/publicity

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

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.