

Council: 15 July 2008

Opposition Policy Item (9.2): Councillor Colin Rogers

Amendment: Cllr. Melvin Cohen

Vibrant Town Centres

Delete all from “residents” to end. Insert the following:

Council regrets the Labour Government’s revised PPS6 Planning Guidance, which permits the siting of large superstores on the edge of town centres, providing unfair competition to small firms in the High Street. Council is proud to have signed up to the *Evening Standard’s* “Save Our Small Shops Campaign” over this very issue in April 2006.

Council further regrets the mishandling of the national economy by Chancellor and then Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, which has led to the “Credit Crunch” and crippling taxes now hampering consumers and businesses, with severe implications on the retail sector in Barnet and beyond.

In contrast, Council is proud of LBB’s efforts to improve the viability of our town centres, which has included the resurfacing and de-cluttering of the streetscene, the rollout of the Townkeeper service, more frequent street cleaning, and ongoing reviews of Controlled Parking Zones to check they continue to serve residents’ and shoppers’ needs.

Additionally, Council believes the new street trading regulations are furthering this aim by facilitating clear and accessible shopping areas for all consumers, including the disabled and those with small children.

Accordingly, Council calls on Cabinet to continue its work to enhance the viability of all Barnet’s town centres, against a backdrop of worsening economic conditions presided over by the Labour Government.

So that the Policy Item Reads:

Council believes that local town centres are the lifeblood of the borough, providing retail, leisure, employment and local services to Barnet residents.

Council regrets the Labour Government’s revised PPS6 Planning Guidance, which permits the siting of large superstores on the edge of town centres, providing unfair competition to small firms in the High Street. Council is proud to have signed up to the *Evening Standard’s* “Save Our Small Shops Campaign” over this very issue in April 2006.

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In contrast, Council is proud of LBB’s efforts to improve the viability of our town centres, which has included the resurfacing and de-cluttering of the streetscene, the rollout of the Townkeeper service, more frequent street cleaning, and ongoing reviews of Controlled Parking Zones to check they continue to serve residents’ and shoppers’ needs.

Additionally, Council believes the new street trading regulations are furthering this aim by facilitating clear and accessible shopping areas for all consumers, including the disabled and those with small children.

Accordingly, Council calls on Cabinet to continue its work to enhance the vitality of all Barnet’s town centres, against a backdrop of worsening economic conditions presided over by the Labour Government, and flawed national planning regulations.