

Express Letters

Where to collect your Beeston Express:

Please note that this list is regularly updated as the new distribution network evolves.

ATTENBOROUGH

Attenborough Nature Centre
Barton Lane

Attenborough Service Station
5 Nottingham Road

BEESTON

Beeston News

86 High Road, Beeston

Chilwell Road News

86A Chilwell Road, Beeston

Co-op Food Store

291 Queens Road, Beeston

G & A Middleton

99 Central Avenue, Beeston

Hiral Newsagent

148 Wollaton Road, Beeston

Sangha Newsagent

182 Queens Road, Beeston

W H Smith

High Road, Beeston

BEESTON RYLANDS

Arun Food & News

154 Meadow Road, Rylands

County Stores

57-59 Trafalgar Road, Rylands

Discount Food & Wine

46 Lilac Crescent, Rylands

Plumb News

1 - 3 Lilac Grove, Rylands

BRAMCOTE

M&N News

40a Sevenoaks Crescent,
Bramcote Hills

CHILWELL

Bains News

Bramcote Avenue, Chilwell

Bramcote Lane Stores

181 Bramcote Lane, Chilwell

Chetwynd Stores

8-10 Chetwynd Road, Chilwell

Sunnyside Post Office

Sunnyside Road, Inham Nook

STAPLEFORD

Wilsons News

7 Pasture Road, Stapleford

TOTON

Post News

79 High Road, Toton

A bee in your bonnet? Have your say here...

IF you want to express your opinion on anything that affects us as a community, then this is the place to do it. And bouquets are as worthwhile as brickbats are valuable. But please keep your letters short. We do reserve the right to cut letters to fit if necessary. If you contact *The Beeston Express* by email (see panel on page 2), remember to include your home address.

A disappointing result

DEAR EDITOR: Having attended the Broxtowe Borough Council planning meeting at which the enlarged Tesco application was decided, I have to say how disappointed I was with both the result and the way it was arrived at. I found the whole process shambolic and unprofessional. Of the councillors who spoke, only two were audible and appeared well prepared; Lynda Lally and Steve Carr. Most of the others either could not be heard, despite having microphones and being asked to speak louder on several occasions, or appeared not to know very much about the subject. They were also allowed to waste valuable time speaking about matters that had little to do with the application before them; for example, what stores might come to Beeston in the future, and a vague planning application that Henry Boot might submit – one councillor mentioned this more times than he actually mentioned the Tesco application.

The debate, if one can call it that, ended with the committee members being told that if they refused the application and were appealed then the council might be ordered to pay costs. If that were used as a criterion for council decisions, or any legal decisions, then no laws would ever be changed and there would be no challenges to any authority, or supermarket giant – what a sad state of affairs. Council officers are there to guide and advise lay council members, not to lead them. The job of councillors is to represent their constituents and do their best working within the framework of the law. It is not unreasonable to expect them to do their homework and be well prepared. There are good challenges to the planning recommendation, that of the increased size of the store, the lack of good design and the effect on the vitality and viability of Beeston. It is only the opinion of the planning officers that was given in their recommendation on these matters, not definitive statements of fact. Recently in Hertford & Ware, the Secretary of State has called in two supermarket planning applications, one by Sainsbury's and an appeal by Tesco following a refusal to double the size of its Hertford store and "overwhelming" rejection by the people of Hertford.

It was said at the meeting that it is high time this site is improved, and so it is, but to replace one eyesore with another is not the right answer. If justice was done on this occasion, it certainly was not seen (or heard) to be done. When the plans for the refurbishment of Beeston precinct and town centre come before this same committee I hope they are better prepared, both to debate the issues and to listen to public opinion.

Not having spoken to a single person who actually likes the idea of a huge supermarket on this site, I say this to the citizens of Beeston: if you want a town which you will like and enjoy and will attract people to it, then make sure you say what YOU want – don't assume that someone else will do it for you. Public opinion can, and does, change things, but only if there is a public opinion to be heard – and the louder the better.

Joyce Brown
Dale Lane, Chilwell

Councillors should represent the people

DEAR EDITOR: So Beeston is to be the latest acquisition in Tescopoly!

This is the result of those six councillors who, for whatever reason, were not prepared to stand up to the mighty Tesco giant and voted for the latest Tesco planning application. Full marks, though, to the four councillors who had the courage to object, despite what seemed to be pressure from the officials about the possible consequences.

The Development Control Committee, on a 6:4 vote, is now responsible for imposing a generally unwanted superstore with 24-hour opening on the centre of Beeston to the (anticipated) detriment of so many other smaller shops and businesses (shops and cafés) in the town; a building with no architectural merit suitable for a town centre site and that will create a huge increase in traffic. How can such a major decision be made by so few people? A majority of just two! This is hardly representative of the population of the area and the committee did not even agree to defer for further consideration, let alone refer it to a meeting of the full Council – that would apparently be 'against the rules'.

Those six persons will have on

their conscience that they may well be responsible for permitting Beeston to follow the fate of Long Eaton and Ilkeston, our nearest similarly-sized neighbours where, for example, the Long Eaton Chamber of Commerce was warning Broxtowe only two months ago that many small retailers had closed because of the huge Tesco store, whilst as recently as last week there was a letter to the Evening Post telling Beeston of the empty shops on Ilkeston's Bath Street as the result of a Tesco store. Yes, we know it is said that the store will bring new life to Beeston – but Tesco would say that, wouldn't they?

One can readily find details on the internet of supermarket development plans up and down the country being rigorously opposed, and the supermarket giants do not always get their own way. Some local authorities have listened to public opinion and been prepared to stand against the giants, but not so Broxtowe.

In Broxtowe's case, faced with the threat that, if the Committee turned down the application, Tesco would appeal and the council could be faced with high legal costs, six members yielded.

Councillors are elected to represent the people and should be prepared to listen to them, and not be swayed by outside influences.

Such is the dominant nature of the Tesco operation that they seem to take the population for granted. I received a statement from Airmiles this month. It suggested that new ways for me to collect Airmiles would be to go to my nearest Tesco store – at Middle Street, Beeston, NG9 2AR!

At the time the store did not even have planning approval, let alone be built – but it has a post code!

Alan Clayton
Park Street, Beeston

Beware of flooding!

DEAR EDITOR: Two years ago I wrote a letter expressing my concern about the number of houses being built in the centre of Beeston. I was concerned about the increase of surface water drainage (road and house drains) which would flow directly into the River Trent. Indeed, the fact that houses have been built on the natural flood plains. In the event of excessive heavy rainfall, this could cause flash flooding. The government announced on the news today that one in six houses would be flooded in the future if something wasn't done about flood prevention, so beware, all those living below the High Road in the lower regions of Beeston.

The flood wall in Attenborough has been delayed considerably but I hope this has now been resolved. I have been informed that Rushcliffe Council, which has more land available than Broxtowe, has been given far less new housing development instructions by the government than Broxtowe. I wonder why?

If I haven't got my facts right please tell me.

From an old Beestonian,

Iris Baker
Beeston

Your Letters

Letters to
The Beeston Express represent
the voice of Beeston in many
cases and we desperately need
them. They usually reflect
general opinion.

But please!

Try to keep your letters brief!

NEXT ISSUE

10 July, 2009

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