

PORTCHESTER TRADERS ASSOCIATION

Chairman: Mr Kevin Butcher
Secretary: Mr John Hancock
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Mr David Hogger
Planning Strategy
Fareham Borough Council
Civic Offices, Civic Way
Fareham PO16 7AZ



Saturday, 21 March 2015

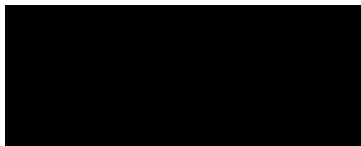
Dear Mr Hogger

We held a meeting of the Traders association on the evening of Thursday 19/03/2015 and a speaker at this meeting outlined the general plans under discussion regarding a new retail unit proposed at Portchester centre. The members present were unanimous in their objections to specifically two points which were discussed. Firstly the results of a survey/consultation carried out on behalf of Fareham Borough Council which determined a shortage of retail space in the Portchester precinct area. The whole area from the corner of Castle Street to the western end of the shop area contains 62 units, this includes Licenced Premises, Banks and a Solicitors Office. Within this group there are four empty units with the Nat West Bank closing 25/03/2015 the Post office moving into Martins and the unit it now occupies probably becoming vacant and six Charity shops which are only available for that operation because no specific retail operator wishes to open up in that unit. The need to build more retail units seems to be unnecessary with some 18% of available retail units under used.

With regards to the planned siting of a retail unit in the car park on the south side of the precinct this will lower the available parking spaces for shoppers using the existing shops. It could also have an effect of people coming to that store independently situated from the main shopping area buying what they need from this shop and leaving the district without entering the main precinct. The statement in the plan which is "Any new retail units will need to be sited in a way that relates and integrates them with the existing pedestrianised retail centre to ensure they become part of the centre" will be impossible to achieve without demolishing part of the frontage of existing retail units.

I have been asked to send you this letter on behalf of the Association to register our joint objections towards this proposal at Portchester

Yours sincerely



Kevin Butcher
Chairman
Portchester Traders Association