

**The deadline for your
objection letter is
Thursday August 5th!**

bwag
BISHOPS WALTHAM
ACTION GROUP

Dear Resident,

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS

Merchants House
High Street
Bishops Waltham
Hampshire
SO32 1AA

To Sainsbury's this is just part of a nationwide 'game' – it has little to do with the needs of Bishops Waltham but everything to do with its fight against TESCO, ASDA and MORRISONS.

- If Sainsbury's win this 'game' they secure their near stranglehold on this entire area. Their shareholders and bankers will reap the rewards of a strengthened market share and greater profits. There are already 7 Sainsbury's in a 9 mile radius of Bishops Waltham!
- If Sainsbury's lose this 'game' they simply move on to another town, another site and probably another fight.

BUT IT IS NOT A GAME FOR US who live in and around Bishops Waltham. If we lose, we forfeit the very way of life that makes Bishops Waltham such a special and friendly place to live, visit and enjoy.

- There is a mass of INDEPENDENT research that shows that 'edge of town' superstores destroy the vitality and viability of small market town centres.
- At the recent exhibition at the Jubilee Hall, the Sainsbury's planning expert acknowledged that a report for Winchester County Council expressed concerns about the future of our town centre if even a few shops were to close.

There is a strong possibility that Bishops Waltham people would lose jobs within 18 months of a superstore opening.

- Tragically, the mainly part time, basic wage jobs that Sainsbury's say they'll offer will already have been taken up by people from their existing stores or others travelling in from areas like Eastleigh, where there are currently higher levels of unemployment.

If we lose, the traffic will become a significant problem in terms of congestion, noise and emissions pollution.

- Even the Sainsbury's traffic consultant, quizzed at their recent exhibition, admitted there would be approximately 32,000 extra traffic movements a week at the Abbey Mill roundabout – an average of an extra traffic movement on or off the junction **EVERY 10 SECONDS.**
- This amount of traffic gives us a clue about the volume of trading that Sainsbury's are hoping to achieve at this new superstore. They want us to do ALL our food shopping there and not to use the high street for it at all.

So now we have to step it up a gear. If the go-ahead is given, Sainsbury's will start work as soon as October. The majority of Bishops Waltham residents, and those in the surrounding villages, recognise instinctively that their heritage could be stolen from them.

More over page >

Love Bishops Waltham **SAY NO TO SAINSBURY'S**
A High Street
dating back to 1332 **www.bwactiongroup.org.uk**

BE CERTAIN that the quality and vitality of Bishops Waltham's High Street means **NOTHING** to Sainsbury's. There is a purely commercial venture and we are just a small step on Sainsbury's way to hit their published target of an additional **1.45 million square feet** of selling space by 2010/11.

To Sainsbury's we, the residents of Bishops Waltham and its surrounding villages, our community and our way of life mean **NOTHING**, other than as potential consumers.

Sainsbury's say that they are a friend of the High Street traders and will be sending more customers into the town than drawing customers out of it. This truly insults the intelligence of every single one of us.

The offer to build a new GP surgery, at a cost of £1.6 million, was no doubt intended to win support. But not only did this provoke a furious reaction from many patients, it has led to formal complaints being lodged with both NHS Hampshire and the General Medical Council.

If the store is built it would take money out of the economy of a medieval market town wrestling with the effects of a recession. Winchester City Council's own report outlines what is likely to happen to Bishops Waltham. *"If independent traders (in Bishops Waltham) close in the future, the availability of new occupiers is uncertain and the number of vacant units could increase, which may undermine the vitality and viability of the town centre."*

Both the Bishops Waltham Society and the Bishops Waltham Chamber of Trade have voted to oppose Sainsbury's application. **WE can stop them, but only TOGETHER.**

So, write a letter stating your objection and address it to:

Planning Department, Winchester City Council, City Offices, Colebrook Street, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 9LJ

You must quote both: the site address: Abbey Mill Business Site, Station Road, Bishops Waltham, Hampshire, SO32 1DH **and** the planning reference: 10 / 01650 / FUL

or email using the same details to planning@winchester.gov.uk

You must also include your own address, the council will not accept it otherwise.



George Hollingbery – MP

"I continue to believe that, new doctors' surgery or not, a Sainsbury's in Bishops Waltham is not good for the long term future of the town. Now that the planning application has been submitted, I will be writing to make my views known and I encourage everyone to do the same."

Remember...

for planning purposes the more than 4,000 names on our petition still counts as just one objection!

We need individual letters of objection – hundreds of them – to stop the plan and save our town's special character.

If in doubt, go to:
www.bwactiongroup.org.uk
to find out more about how to write your letter.

For those without internet access, visit Stainers in the High Street for an explanatory leaflet.



Amanda Holden – presenter and actress

"It is definitely a 'No' for Sainsbury's from me. We don't need a Sainsbury's, we have nice village shops here and it is these people's businesses that will suffer if this superstore is allowed to be built. I think it is terrible that it would be built right by one of our historic monuments, so I've signed BWAG's petition."

Photo courtesy of Southern Daily Echo

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