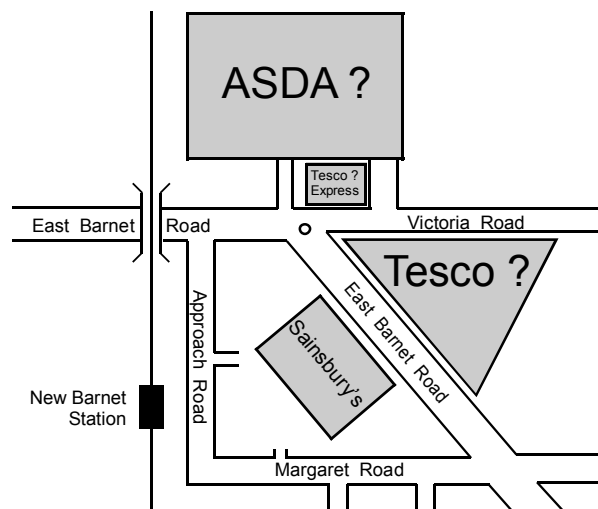


Save New Barnet

Newsletter

14th October 2012



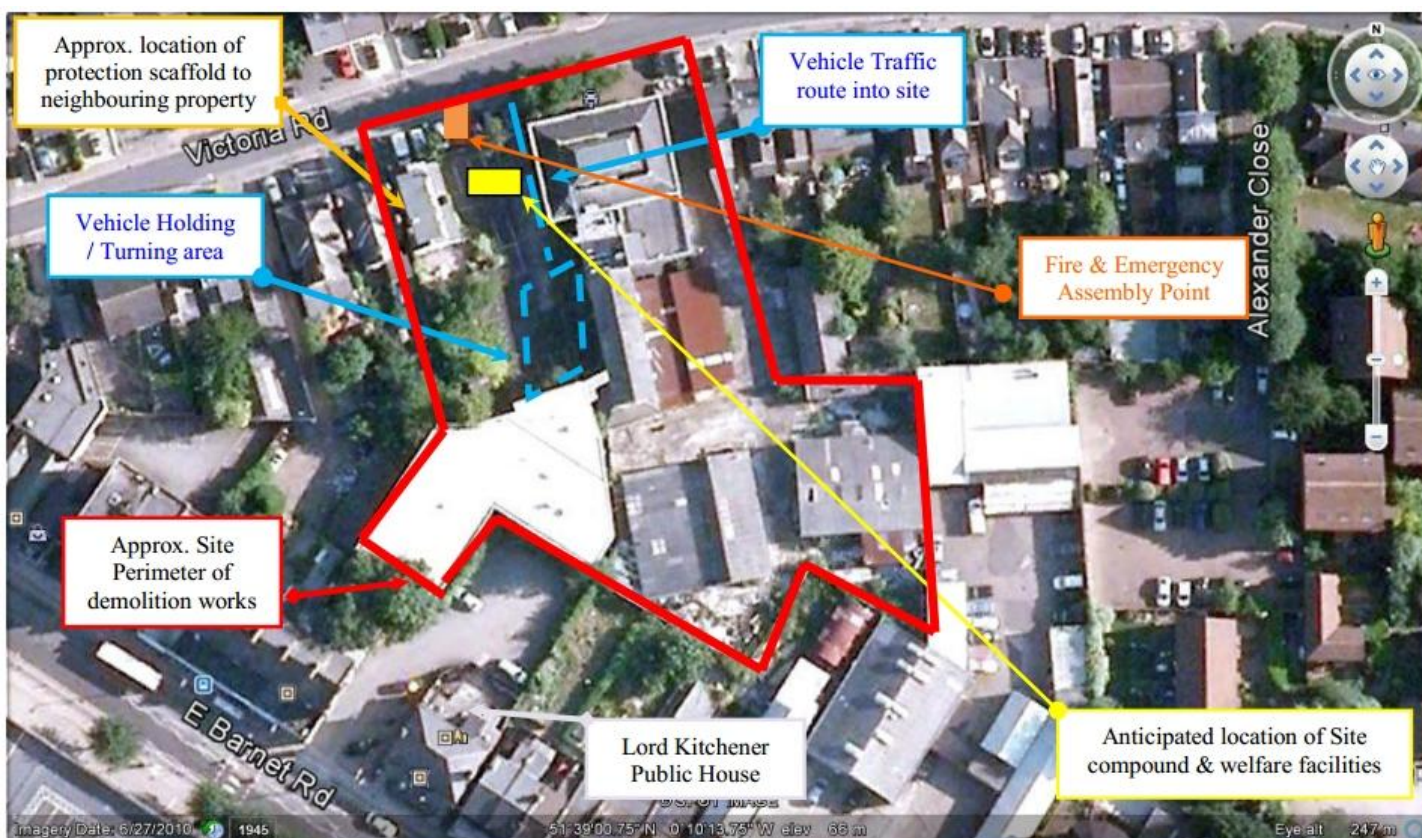
Dear Friends,

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

OpTex Site – Victoria Road

Work is due to start on 15th October to demolish the OpTex building and a number of surrounding light industrial structures that have been empty since Tesco purchased them for its now abandoned superstore scheme. Permission has been granted for the site to be cleared ready for a future residential development. A two metre high solid plywood hoarding will be erected along the Victoria Road frontage.

The area to be cleared is shown outlined in red on this site layout plan provided as part of the demolition application.



The developer of the site is Spen Hill (aka Spenhill), a wholly owned subsidiary of Tesco.

A leaflet delivered to neighbouring properties last week by Spen Hill states that the demolition work will take up to 10 weeks to complete (until Christmas). It will be carried out Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm (and possibly Saturdays 9am to 1pm).

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At this point **NO** planning application has yet been made by Spen Hill. Their leaflet states that a public exhibition will be held 'soon'. We believe that it is proposed to build mainly houses, with a block of flats to the rear of the site behind the Lord Kitchener public house. We have been hoping to be able to tell you about the proposals for the OpTex site since early August, but our promised meetings with the developers keep being postponed or cancelled. We understand that after long delays in agreeing to meet with Spen Hill that Barnet Council's planning department have requested changes to the initial proposals.

Tesco / Spen Hill have 3 development sites in New Barnet which they are planning to develop with houses and flats.

- OpTex in Victoria Road is the largest site
- 15 East Barnet Road is the prominent corner property on the Victoria Road junction
- 7-11 Victoria Road where there were plans to build a Tesco Express store (planning permission for this has now expired)

ASDA

We have heard absolutely nothing from ASDA and their plans for the gasworks site in Albert Road.

Changes in Planning Laws

Since March 2012 there have been new overarching planning laws in England and Wales called the National Planning Policy Framework. Instead of 1500 pages of legislation there are now just 52 pages and this is causing some uncertainty as to what is acceptable or not. However there is some better news for our community as the New Barnet Town Centre Framework (based on the Vision for New Barnet that we fought hard to get accepted) is part of the Adopted Local Plan for Barnet, which was approved by the council on 11th September 2012.

Cat Hill Campus

Developers L&Q have submitted a new planning application for the redevelopment of the former Middlesex University campus by the Cat Hill roundabout. The new plans are for 232 residential units comprising 69 houses and 163 flats.

The plans can be viewed on Enfield Council's planning department website: <http://tinyurl.com/cathill2>

The Campaign for Cat Hill continues to fight the plans for this development. Visit their website for more information: www.campaignforcathill.com

Please remember that this is a new planning application, previous objections are not carried forward. If you wish to object to this proposal you must write again.

Regards,

Save New Barnet Campaign team

Save New Barnet Campaign

website: www.newbarnet.org.uk
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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.