

Councillor Mary Mears
Leader of the city council
Brighton & Hove City Council
King's House
Grand Avenue
Hove BN3 2LS

Date: 25 February 2009

Our Ref: BWO/EB - 10111

Your Ref:

Dear Mary

Re: Request to Speak Out at Cabinet on 12 March 2009

Denise and I would be grateful for the opportunity to speak to your Cabinet meeting on the 12th March.

For some weeks there has been an issue in the Portland Road area of Westbourne Ward about a major food retailer locating in the road.

Local people have said to us that they are concerned about:

- Popular small firms that have struggled to build up their trade in recent years will be put out of business by a major food retailer entering the area;
- In the long run, competition will be reduced through a lack of choice for local residents;
- A number of major chain supermarkets are only a short bus ride away from the neighbourhood.

Those people who are interested in such a store locating in the area have mentioned issues concerning parking and local traffic congestion.

Given the issues that this matter has raised and the Council's policy of assisting small businesses through the economic downturn, we would be grateful if you would exercise your powers under the Constitution and allow us to speak to put the case that the Cabinet should commission a report into the impact of large food retailers on smaller shops in the face of the present severe recession.

I look forward to hearing from you.

All good wishes.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Brian Oxley

Visit my blog pages at www.brighton-hove-councillors.org.uk/BrianOxleyblog

