

# “PARKGATE” - The Asda based development in Shirley

Dear Neighbour, we are writing to you on behalf of *Shirley Residents Association* and residents group *Keep Shirley Alive*. We are all committed to regeneration in Shirley because we live here. However, both organisations have opposed Parkgate, arguing for a smaller scheme that does not take our parkland.

Shirley residents conducted a massive 6000 home survey last year and had over 1000 responses.

The results showed that 30% of residents were in favour of Parkgate, 61% against, and 9% undecided.

Contrast our situation therefore with Dorridge, where Sainsbury's have listened to residents and come back with new proposals which are 26% smaller.

The latest Parkgate proposals have been rejected by Solihull Council simply and only because the car park is not big enough. **We believe the consequences for Shirley if the scheme went ahead with only the proposed 500 spaces, which we think is only enough for Parkgate itself, are quite dramatic:**

- **The loss of well over 200 existing parking spaces for the independent shops would place them, and people who work in Shirley, at a massive disadvantage at busy times.**
- **If the car park is not big enough there would be serious consequences for traffic in Shirley as cars queue or circulate to try and find a space.**
- **The developers have always said that the Asda car park would be free for 3 hours, yet they have calculated their spaces based on a one hour stay only. This is not enough to allow for a visit to the Stratford Rd high street as well, and would deprive existing shops of any benefit from 'linked trips'.**
- **There would be fly parking in nearby residential roads, adding to the traffic misery.**

**We also think that without adequate temporary parking arrangements, many shops will not survive the 2 year construction phase.**

Shirley Advance have already lodged an appeal against the proposals rejected in December 2010. (The February application was identical except for additional information.)

We hope the Council will robustly defend their decision. If we must have this development then it should have an adequate car park.

However, we hope too that new circumstances will emerge to enable Shirley to move forward with a scheme which will truly regenerate without decimating our parkland or existing shops, or making our lives a misery with too much extra traffic. Or, unlike Dorridge, is that too much to hope for?

*Shirley Residents Association secretary Ann Turner 0121 603 4083*

*[www.keepshirleyalive.org.uk](http://www.keepshirleyalive.org.uk)*

We ask you to write to the appeal address below with your comments about the parking issues.

A letter is better, but you can use the tear off slip. **Comments must arrive by 22nd March latest to be considered.** Remember to quote reference APP/Q4625/A/10/2143309/NWF

TO: Jenny Howland, The Planning Inspectorate, Room 3/22 Hawk, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, BRISTOL BS1 6PN

Re: *Parkgate, Shirley; appeal application ref: APP/Q4625/A/10/2143309/NWF*

*I wish to comment on the parking and related issues as follows:*

Name:

Signed:

Date:

Address: