

Cllr. Steve Curran by email

BCC 837 July 2 2018

Dear Steve,

I have been asked to write to you to express our concern at the uncertain state of the plans for the redevelopment of Brentford Town Centre after the Planning Consultative Committee held a preliminary discussion on the discussion paper (below).

The committee considered that Brentford Town Centre will continue to decline without Morrisons, its only anchor outlet. The Council as Planning Authority and Landowner needs to take a positive initiative to ensure that residents are properly served and that the Council's own holdings maintain their importance and their value.

We would urge you to initiate, with other landowners shopkeepers and stakeholders, an immediate review which takes account of the national trends away from high streets, the uncertainty of the timetable for the redevelopment on the south side of the high street and the long term potential of the shops on the north side.

We urge you to share your emerging plans with local residents to restore confidence that the Council is taking an effective lead in promoting realistic plans for the future of our town centre.

**Discussion Paper: Brentford Town Centre
Planning Consultative Committee June 11 2018**

Listed below are some of the issues that face our town centre. The BCC may want to consider whether we should initiate a public debate on future plans:

1. Brentford Town Centre should be the vibrant centre of our community but for years it has been going down hill and there appear to be no co-ordinated plans to ensure it's future.

2. Short Term Problems. Our supermarket is closing and those without cars may not have any suitable facilities for some years.
3. One bank is closing. The post office is on a development site and there are no plans for it to be re-located.
4. There are planning consents for development on the South Side of the High Street, phase one by Ballymore and for the Council's own development. There is also a consent for the Morrison site and there has been an exhibition for the redevelopment of Roman House. But there are no firm timetables for any of these projects.
5. There are proposals for bicycle superhighway 9 which have been out to consultation, but no amended proposals or timetable.
6. Bus services are not centred on the town centre to increase the catchment area for shops and services. Short term parking is likely to diminish.
7. No improvements have been proposed for the link between Brentford station and the Town Centre.
8. There is currently a review of the retail needs of the Hounslow centres including Brentford. As planning consents exist for retail on both the South Side of the High Street and on the Morrison site what scope is there for developing a coherent retail offer if it is demonstrated that on-line shopping has significantly reduced the need for new retail floorspace.

This is a matter of great concern locally and we look to you as Leader and ward member to initiate positive proposals.

Sincerely

Denis Browne
for BCC

cc Andrew Dakers, Brentford
High Street Steering Group