
Regeneration/Asda

Posted by Lin - 2008/04/05 00:40

What are peoples opinions on the current regeneration plans and Asda's involvement? Most of the letters printed in the journal seem to be against proposals but I don't see many viable alternatives being proposed.

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/04/05 01:12

I have to be careful what I obviously say on all matters on the forum. What I can say is that 75% of all voters on the poll I ran on the homepage were for the proposals. I have also been told that similar projects have been good for similar towns and bad. I would need more information from informed choices as to what it would mean for Exmouth.

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by Lin - 2008/04/05 01:19

Well, I'm pleased to hear that 75% were for the idea! I'm all for it but I do think they need to think carefully about where everything is placed. For example... I don't think the leisure centre should go where they're proposing as Asda and a few other retail outlets would be enough there (traffic wise). If Rolle College does come up for sale, that would be an ideal place to put the leisure centre.

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/04/05 03:19

Yet another subject for discussion, Rolle College!

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by moonwolf - 2008/04/08 17:32

75% for Asda :S Nah! I reckon one person kept re-voting ;) How accurate can an online pole be? So many people couldn't be so naive. Asda would destroy Exmouth town centre.

The estuary would also be spoiled. Wildlife (and nearby residents) would be affected with all night lighting and car banging.

A quiet, grassy area along the estuary would be ideal for watching birdlife with a picnic.

Leave the library where it is - just refurbish it, as it brings custom to Exeter Road shops.

I've not been in the leisure centre so can't comment on that. Maybe that could be refurbished?

What about Asda going where Rolle College is?

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/04/08 23:24

The online poll had a delay on it of several weeks. I forget the exact length as I have to configure it in seconds so the results will be fairly accurate. I have a feeling that the Rolle college site may be a better area from the points you are talking about but I believe that from what I have heard so far, it is planned that the redevelopment of the estuary site will

link the town center with the ASDA site bring more people here. It is also hoped, I believe, that the ASDA will bring people from further afield that usually go to Tesco to the town center. Who knows.

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by Lin - 2008/04/09 00:32

I think Asda should be as close to the town centre as possible to enable people to park there, walk into town then go back for a bit of shopping (which they will do as I've lived in a town with a large Asda store!)... Rolle College is just too far out of town. If they build Asda out of town then people will go there rather than the town (like Tesco) so the town will suffer again. Rolle College is better suited, imo, to the new leisure centre. No, there isn't anything wrong with the current leisure centre (although the pool could be more child/fun friendly) but I can't think of any other site close to town centre for Asda to go so the leisure centre would have to be moved (and I don't think it should be rebuilt along the estuary as the parking would be inadequate and it would add to the inevitable traffic that a supermarket would create.

The only problems I envisage with the current proposals are parking for the train station.

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/04/09 03:11

I am hoping the rumors I heard about the train station closing are not true.

I only have a few fears with the ASDA. Traffic/Parking and the impact it will have on the Exe Trail.

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by sceptic - 2008/04/09 03:24

I must confess that I find the suggestion that a poll of 75% in favour of the proposed Asda bears no resemblance to all the other surveys in the town, and to the ratio of letters in the local press. I am always a little suspicious of polls with percentage results; it would be good to know how many unique voters took part. I have noted that EDDC have claimed, on several occasions, that the 'silent majority' support the Asda Walmart proposal, their chair even goes as far as to say that the last election result gave them a mandate for the superstore. I say to EDDC, show us the evidence for the claim as to the silent majority support, and show us where in your election manifesto there was mention of the superstore. I kept my copies and the word 'superstore' does not appear in any of them. I would welcome an informed debate on the subject, one informed by fact and not the biased claims of ASDA Walmart or EDDC who will receive plenty from the deal. I want to see answers to questions such as where are all the cars going to park, what is the net benefit to Exmouth of such a proposal, how many jobs will be lost by other employers, etc etc and above all, is the estuary side really the place for a superstore? From what I have seen of the plans, it will result in all the views of the estuary side being lost as one comes into the town, to be replaced by the massive walls of an ASDA Walmart box, Houses and replacement sports facilities .

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/04/09 04:44

Welcome to Exmouth Online Sceptic. In terms of the poll, I will put the original poll back up online again for a limited time. It is an independent vote system that gives a general idea of people's views. Please feel free to place your vote. Thank you.

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by Lin - 2008/04/09 04:56

Hi Sceptic... welcome to the debate!

The trouble with letters in the paper is that it's mainly those that are opposed to the plans that will write in - the likes of me, who are all for regeneration, won't bother (although I have seen one or two that are more balanced). Almost everyone I know here is in favour of Asda coming to Exmouth (including the proposed site) with just a couple of people (parents included!) who are against it.

I've seen many letters opposing the plans but have seen none that suggest any viable alternatives. I think the majority of Exmouth agree that Tesco is no longer adequate or should hold the majority and they also agree that the town centre needs to be supported... but no-one is coming up with new suggestions.

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by sceptic - 2008/04/09 05:28

Lin

I don't understand why you don't feel it worth writing in to the papers. I would encourage all to express their views there. A number of alternatives have been proposed, a smaller food market on the KFC roundabout, something on the London Inn site - but none seem to appeal to EDDC (not enough money in it for them?) I have seen lots of alternative uses suggested in the Journal for the estuaryside, personally I would like to see it made greener and maybe have a few small units connected with water sports and maybe a restaurant.

Tesco are seeking to expand, they have an exhibition in the town hall this Friday and Saturday that was advertised in the paper. They could use some competition though and a decent food store in the town might do that without ruining the centre

Admin, there is no need to put the poll back for me, but knowing how many unique users voted previously would be of interest.

Thanks for the welcome.

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by Lin - 2008/04/09 05:47

The poll is now back up on the home page.. it's on the right hand side of the screen. Looks like 160 people voted.

Tesco's expanding is all well and good but they take people away from the town rather than bring them into it.

I can't think where the London Inn is... is it behind the centre carpark? If so, then I would have thought the site was too small. Same goes for the KFC roundabout area - I don't think a small food market would suffice... we already have Somerfield for that but I know many people won't shop there because they don't stock enough variety.

I agree it would be lovely to see a greener estuary with complimentary shops/restaurants but I doubt that will ever be on the cards as it won't bring in enough revenue. I really can't see the problem with putting Asda on the Exe... it would simply be in place of the leisure centre and bus station which are already there (obviously with increased traffic though).

I have toyed with sending a letter to the journal... I'll think about it!

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/04/09 06:24

Lin, if you do write to the paper, please mention us here on Exmouth Online! The London Inn Carpark is behind the magnolia center, near somerfields opposite Porky Downs, Urban Republic, British Heart Foundation. I personally believe the major problem in the town center is lack of parking. There were plans on the London Inn car park becoming a multi story. These plans were scraped but would be nice to see them back on the tables.

I do know Tony, the Town manager, is doing a fantastic Job for the town and everyone involved and I honestly believe, that the people who make their minds up will not do anything that will ruin the town. A big thank you to all those working hard on the redevelopment.

In terms of the vote, I placed it up here before I saw your post Sceptic but as Lin said, you can see the results in live time. It is polls like this that everyone can use, it only takes a few seconds rather than writing and posting a letter that can take a long time, this is why they are a great way to gauge peoples views and I will be honest, even I did not think results would be the way they are!

Obviously, I am trying to stay neutral in all debates on the Exmouth forums given the position I am in as administrator and I will keep my own views private due to this but it is really interesting seeing where this is going. Please invite all your friends and family to join in the debate as I am in regular contact with the council and town management keeping them updated with the way things are going and this is a great place to air your views, the whole reason I set the site up in the first place. Just see this video to see the proof!
<http://youtube.com/djsevergreen46>

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by moonwolf - 2008/04/10 18:00

Trouble is Lin, as I see it, Asda will take away the trade from the small shops, so there won't be a town to go to! Asda sells everything and cheaply. It's more convenient to get everything under one roof and take it back to the car in a trolley.

Our present traders will lose their living and Exmouth will lose its character. They seem to be doing a good trade right now when I shop there.

I think the present Tesco is sufficient actually.

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by moonwolf - 2008/04/10 18:02

What impact would Asda have on the Exe Trail?

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by moonwolf - 2008/04/10 18:06

Glad to see the pole is back. I didn't know about it or this website until I went to the last 'Against Asda Meeting'. I think it should be mentioned in the Journal.

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/04/10 18:11

Thank you Moonwolf, I set the site up last year and officially went live on July 4th 2007. Since then, the support of the site has kept growing and a big thank you to thejet49 for mentioning the site at the ASDA meet. Due to the fact that the site is a community site, all money raised by adverts etc goes into the running of the site, I do ask that if you would like to mention the site to the paper, friends, family, then all you can do to help it grow would be great and much appreciated.

In regards to shopping local, a interesting question I was asked a while ago was "when was the last time you bought from a local trader and how often do you buy rather than going to national chains, supermarkets etc?" You maybe surprised with the answer you receive from most people.

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by moonwolf - 2008/04/10 21:29

admin wrote:

In regards to shopping local, a interesting question I was asked a while ago was "when was the last time you bought from a local trader and how often do you buy rather than going to national chains, supermarkets etc?" You maybe surprised with the answer you receive from most people.

I think the answer would be that most people would choose national chains and supermarkets, if so, then people would choose Asda over the local traders. I try to support the small businesses as much as possible, but nevertheless if items are there in front of me in a supermarket then I'll be as tempted as the next person.

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by Lin - 2008/04/11 01:22

moonwolf wrote:

Trouble is Lin, as I see it, Asda will take away the trade from the small shops, so there won't be a town to go to! Asda sells everything and cheaply. It's more convenient to get everything under one roof and take it back to the car in a trolley.

Out present traders will lose their living and Exmouth will lose it's charactor. They seem to be doing a good trade right now when I shop there.

I think the present Tesco is sufficient actually.

Surely those that opt for the convenience of 'shopping under one roof' already do so at Tesco? I don't think it would take any more away from the town centre than Tesco already has done - it will just give people the opportunity to choose between Tesco or Asda. There are still many things I would go into town for that I couldn't get in a supermarket. I don't envisage Asda being that much bigger than Tesco (which I read in the Journal is 54,750 sq ft - th proposed Asda, I believe, is going to be 40,000 sq ft) so they won't be able to stock the range they offer in larger stores.

Tesco in the winter is probably just about sufficient (although everytime I've been I've had to queue and they are often out of stock of items I want to buy) but during the holiday season, it definately isn't.

Having spent the last 10 years in a town with Asda, Morrisons, Sainsbury's, Lidl's and Aldi, I really do think it would do Exmouth the world of good to have a store nearer town. I regularly ventured into town (often parking in one of the store carparks) for items (ie. clothes, shoes etc.) where there was more choice... or even just for a bite to eat! The town was always busy.. .as was the Saturday market that continues to operate. This is how I envisage Asda in Exmouth working too.

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by marnie - 2008/04/11 02:42

i have to say I am concerned for the magnolia centres survival.If the town centre becomes run down that will deter visitors from exmouth.Any ideas what would happen to the Somerfield site if they cannot compete if asda comes to town.When my daughter lived in Exmouth we did try to give our custom to both large and small shops alike.Its your town look after it best you can.

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by sceptic - 2008/04/11 05:39

There are I think a number of issues to do with this proposed development.

Firstly there is the issue of democracy, or rather lack of it. You may not recall the occasion but EDDC gave their word not to promote the estuaryside site after they got such a hammering in the two lots of their consultations.In a press release dated 22 February 2006 they said, and I quote "Its No to the Visitor centre site and no to the supermarket" They continued "The people of Exmouth have spoken and we are listening". The leader of EDDC Sara Randall Johnson said " If the will of the town is that it does not wish to accept this package then we are happy to abide by the wishes of the people". The council later passed a motion not to promote the estuaryside. In December 2007 the council invited four

supermarket chains/agents to submit their ideas for the estuaryside. So much for democracy and the word of EDDC! Secondly there is the question of whether the estuaryside is a suitable location for such a mammoth proposal. I have already expressed my view that it is not, that the site should be tidied up, greened and have a use more fitting its unique location. We should keep what little access and views of the water that we still have left. Asda's plans will remove the estuaryside from our sight from the road alongside the railway.

Thirdly there is the issue of the effect of any new superstore on the existing businesses and the well being of the town centre. The size of the proposed Asda is massive. In today's Journal, that strange office holder of "Champion for Exmouth", Cllr Skinner who does not even represent an Exmouth ward, let it slip that the new building will extend right out from the estuaryside and cover the roundabout by the Kentucky. Can you just imagine the size? He also talked about linked trips, a technical term that basically concerns whether, if you visit one place you then go on to visit other shops. The suggestion has been that the linked trips from a new Asda will benefit the town. Both EDDC and Exmouth Town Council have been asked to produce some studies that they have quoted as evidence of linked trips. In EDDC's case it transpired they could not even show they had read it let alone produce it (makes you wonder who has been writing their releases!) I am still waiting, over three months on, for the Town manager to produce the evidence after he said in December "There is clear and well-documented evidence of how well thought through and well designed projects can bring real benefits to towns".

Well now I think I know why they are reluctant to produce these reports for I have acquired a copy of a report by Helpher Dixon for the Asda store in Spennymoor in November 2004. That report, which in my opinion as someone who has studied research methods, misses many of the relevant points that should be covered (but as it was done for ASDA that is not surprising). It does report that of those who were questioned as they left ASDA, 18.3% claimed they linked a visit to the town every visit to ASDA. (They didn't say why though so it could be to a library or non food premise etc)

What they might not want you to know is that of those questioned in the Street in Spennymoor, i.e. not in ASDA, 47% linked a trip to the town with a trip to ASDA.

In short, more people from the town went to ASDA than did people from ASDA to the town. We do not know why people went from Asda to the town but it is reasonable to assume that people who went to Asda from the town did so to shop. Given that the slogan of ASDA is "Why pay more" is it surprising?

A really worrying feature of the survey is that supermarket shopping accounted for 95.4% of the food shopping of those surveyed. Only 3.2% used non supermarket shops. If that is not evidence of the likely demise of our independent town shops, and then the town centre, I don't know what is.

We need our small independent retailers, the likes of Porky Down who we visit every week. We need bookshops and music stores that sell more than just the best sellers.

We don't need more charity shops (another just opened) if the town is to have any life about it. Remember also that Asda will be open 24 hours a day, what chance will the small man have.

My apologies for the length of this but I hope it helps identify some of the issues.

PS. Went to the Tesco preview earlier tonight, looks like they mean to increase the size of their Salterton road store by around 40 odd% and their manager believes that it will make shopping there less of a hassle. We will see!

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/04/11 05:40

I must say that for a first post, you could not have said anything better than "it's your town, look after it".

This is what these forums are for, this is what the site is for, this is why it is free to use. I do not know if there is a plan to charge people for parking in the ASDA car park but I hear today, Tesco are looking to expand. What are your views on this? A good thing or very bad thing? There is a public meet for the plans 10-4 at the Town Hall Friday and Saturday. I can not make it myself so if anyone does, please can you post up the findings for everyone to read?

I have also started 2 groups going regarding this discussion. A group for ASDA and a group against ASDA in Exmouth. As with all groups, you have your own private forums. You can find them here http://www.exmouthonline.com/component/option,com_groupjive/task,showcat/id,3/Itemid,244/

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by sceptic - 2008/04/11 05:49

admin

If the Newton Abbot Store is anything to go by then charging will be a pound per hour with a maximum of two hours. If you spend over a certain amount (£10??) then your fee is refunded.

Parking will be a significant problem for an Asda in Exmouth. There was a study some while ago that said the council

needed to provide many more spaces (over 200??) just to meet the towns existing needs. This was in respect of Imperial Road car park which many presently use for the nearby doctors, the sports centre and for shopping in the town. Where are the present users going to park if Asda take it over as they have indicated they will. The other point is that two hours parking will not give one much time for linked shopping in the town ecven if it was likely that many would want to do so.

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/04/11 05:58

That is a problem I see with parking in Exmouth at the moment, not enough and what there is is not for long enough to park, shop, enjoy a coffee and window shop. That is from my experiences anyway, I have developed my own parking route to find unlimited parking so I can do all the things I need to get done. Then again, my uses are different to others as I mainly go down town for the site and personal. What are peoples thoughts? I think 250 spaces will be created for ASDA at the planned site but is this enough? If not, where do we need more?

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by Lin - 2008/04/11 06:02

I do see what you and others are saying Sceptic, however, I still don't think it's a bad thing! I don't see how Asda will block the view of the estuary over the railway line as, from the plans I've seen, it will just be in place of the current leisure centre and bus station. If they do rebuild the leisure centre along there as well (as shown in the plans) then yes, I will agree that the views will be compromised.

I can also see the sense in the report you've spoken about... as I said earlier, I believe people will go into town to shop from Asda (and vice versa, although not so much) as I have done in the past.

Those people, like yourself, who regularly use the town centre shops for meat & veg, will most probably continue to do so... the majority already go to Tesco and they are the ones that will shop at Asda instead.

On the issue of democracy, I can see why you'd be upset (I didn't live in Exmouth at that time having been away for 10 years). I do wonder how many the 'silent majority' consist of though as of the dozen or so people I have spoken to, 90% are all for Asda coming to town.

I can totally understand why people don't want the store on the estuary (I am often down there snapping photos of the sunset myself) and that is should be developed for more 'green' activities, but, Exmouth needs a new supermarket and there doesn't appear to be any where else suitable to put it.

As for expanding Tesco... I'd rather see Asda (or any other supermarket for that matter) come to town rather than see Tesco increase their continuing monopoly.

I recall many similar objections to Tesco when it was built almost 20 years ago...

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by Lin - 2008/04/11 06:05

The Asda where I lived (Grantham) charge £1 for 2 hours parking which is refunded if you spend over £5 in store. As far as I know, there is nothing to stop you from getting another ticket once your 2 hours is up (in fact, I was told that for £5 you could park there all day, but I don't know whether that was true).

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by sceptic - 2008/04/11 16:49

Good Morning All,

Lin, if you have a look at the latest plans from Asda you will see that they intend to use the whole estuary site north of the car park for their store, the sports centre and swimming pool and housing. These buildings will, in effect, put up a barrier that will remove the view of the estuary from the main road.

As to the silent majority, if I honestly thought the majority were in favour then I would accept the majority verdict and try and argue for minimal impact of the development. The fact is, and it is verifiable, every test of public opinion has been against such development. (sorry Admin I don't believe the online poll has any validity and is too easily manipulated) The largest petition in Exmouth's history ended up with over 10,000 people saying they were against this type of development.

I know people who are for Asda but they have never shown themselves in any significant numbers; they are I suggest largely the wishful thinking of councillors supporting the project. If people felt strongly that we should have this development why are we not seeing groups campaigning for it? They would have the backing of Asda and find it far easier going than those who oppose it.

Parking. I think the problem is best demonstrated by trying imagine adding the sort of numbers who presently park at Tesco, to those already using Imperial Road car park. Where could they go, there just isn't room. As the car park would be Asda's, those wanting only to visit elsewhere would be disadvantaged. (By the by, on the Newton Abbot car park notice board there was no mention of a way of exceeding the 2 hrs max).

I find it ironic that a main reason for some wanting a new superstore is that the existing ones are not meeting our needs. It wasn't that long ago that Somerfield and Tesco were the answer to our problems, now they are the problem. Where will we go when Asda is the problem?

It was good to see a letter from some youngsters in the journal, after all, it is their heritage at risk.

Can you imagine what other places in the country would give for beauty spot like the estuary side? I honestly believe that there are better ways of meeting the town's needs than dumping an almighty retail shed on it.

Can we at least agree that Exmouth is too important to take a gamble with, that we should not allow any significant development unless it can be proved beyond reasonable doubt that a development will benefit and not harm the town and its amenities? We are getting biased views from the developers, they tell us about the jobs that will be created but not the ones that will be lost in the town (studies funded by the supermarket industry embarrassingly show that this sort development brings a net loss of 276 jobs to a town). Such biased views can be expected from the developers but our councils should be testing the evidence and not acting as promoter, judge and jury.

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/04/12 01:13

Skeptic, the forums are here for views of everybody and anything, as long as they are not insulting or advertise companies or links that are not relevant. So in regards to the polls, please do not feel like you have to say sorry for what you think. The important part is getting people views up in writing on a public forum. I have passed links to both the town manager and town clerk for this thread so please rest assured, they are reading what is said.

Did anyone manage to get to the Tesco expansion presentation today?

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by Lin - 2008/04/12 03:29

sceptic wrote:

Good Morning All,

I honestly believe that there are better ways of meeting the town's needs than dumping an almighty retail shed on it.

Can you please elaborate on this? My biggest gripe is that those opposed to the development don't seem to be coming up with new ideas. Imo Exmouth really does need another major supermarket as the 2 we have now aren't adequate most of the time so a location still needs to be found.

If people felt strongly that we should have this development why are we not seeing groups campaigning for it? I did toy with the idea but I wouldn't know where to start! ;) It's not that I'm all for the development (it's certainly not in ideal location, but then wherever they built it, it would upset somebody) but as I said above, there doesn't appear to be any other viable solution so I think we should go with this one.

I'm afraid I didn't get to the Tesco meeting... too busy emergency clothes shopping in Exeter for the kids while they're on school holidays!

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/04/12 04:08

Lin wrote:

there doesn't appear to be any other viable solution so I think we should go with this one.

Is this not in itself a solution? What does everyone think? From what I have heard, it is a new cafe, new ranges, more jobs. Is it that the store will be enough if increased in size?

Also, a question which I have heard, the major problem with the current Tesco is in the summer when the tourists arrive, a larger Tesco may help with this? An if a new ASDA is built, will it further attract people from Sandy Bay down town or will they all still go to the Tesco because it is closer? Again, I am just asking questions and I am not trying to put my thoughts across.

I also saw this on <http://www.ecozine.co.uk/news7.htm>

Exmouth Greens in
stunning victory over Walmart

Campaigners in Exmouth, Devon, are celebrating their victory over plans by the world's largest retailer to build a giant supermarket on one of Britain's finest beauty spots by promoting a popular planning initiative for the seaside town. The eighteen month battle of Exmouth Citizens' Forum (ECF) against a proposed Asda Walmart superstore on Exmouth's internationally renowned estuaryside was won last week when East Devon District Council (EDDC) finally dropped the scheme. The decision by the Conservative council followed mounting pressure

both from local campaigners and from overseas supporters impressed by their efforts.

ECF has received support from as far afield as China and New Zealand in its campaign against the US giant's plans. Following its success, ECF, which organised an 11,000-signature petition to Parliament against the plan, is now

taking steps to establish an authentic community-led, process of democratic and inclusive planning for Exmouth. Spokeswoman Megan Armstrong says ECF now wants to build on its success. She said:

"Messages of support we received in recent weeks show that the eyes of the world have been on Exmouth during this resistance stage of the campaign. Both national newspapers and politicians have been drawn into the battle. "Having united to defeat East Devon District Council's deeply unpopular superstore scheme, the people of Exmouth have created a wonderful opportunity to come together again to say what sort of community we want for our children.

In that, we can give a lead to many in the world who do not want big business to take over their way of life. "Our campaign has proved Exmouth to be a vibrant place, so there will be no shortage of ideas. But we should learn after the defeat of the council's expensive yet bogus 'public consultation' exercise that there should be no mad dash to a decision. "We now have the chance to work together to find how we can best retain what makes Exmouth so beautiful and attractive to all who come here, yet also ensure that it remains a place with an economy that makes it continue to flourish – one that offers worthwhile jobs and a decent future for our children. "This is a golden opportunity for our councillors, especially those who don't live in Exmouth but seem so determined to change it from outside, to prove their transparency and commitment to local people by joining with the Exmouth Citizens' Forum's people-led initiative to build a better future together."

There is no date with this and this is something I missed, I assume this is after the petition and if so, how did it get back on track?

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by sceptic - 2008/04/12 05:05

Hello Lin

I will try and answer the questions you raised.

If you look at many of the Asda store buildings they usually have three sides that are just plain (usually white and looking like a sort of corrugated iron) walls, the Newton Abbot store is like that to a large extent. Like their American parent company Walmart stores, they are not striking architectural buildings, just great big sheds. If you have Google Earth try

looking at some towns that have Asdas. You can spot the stores as great white sheds from miles off - try Spennymoor near Gateshead and you can perhaps see what I mean. See also <http://theblot.wordpress.com/2006/09/16/asda-blunder-in-newton-abbot/> for one Newton Abbot resident's views on their Asda building.

It isn't true that those opposed to the use of the estuary side don't have alternative ideas, they just don't get much publicity afforded them. I have already mentioned the London Inn as an alternative, some have suggested a store on the KFC roundabout (not stretching from the estuary site though) indeed the Town council supported that idea, an improved Sommerfield would help and also perhaps something could be done in the area at the back of Sommerfields and Boots. There are many rumours that the Post Office is to be sold and that site could make a good store of a more suitable size.

When I went to the Tesco presentation I talked to one of their people about the presumption that a bigger store would make for better shopping. In some places I know as the store has got bigger so too have the crowds and in the end there isn't much real benefit, often quite the opposite. It is a bit like building new road, the more roads you build the more cars come and fill them up. I was told that they did not expect to draw many more customers as there are not that many places to draw them from, but that they expected shopping to be a more pleasant experience. Their words not mine. It begs the question though, if Tesco don't think there is enough extra business in the area where are Asda's customers going to be coming from? Exmouth is not a typical town, three quarters of the area surrounding it is water, either the estuary or the sea, and thus the catchment area is restricted to a quarter slice of the normal cake. Even in that quarter you don't have to go too far out of Exmouth before it you are closer to Exeter and its greater range of shops.

By the way, the Tesco exhibition is on tomorrow Sat 10:00 to 16:00. Don't expect too much though, it is really just an artists impression with explanations as to the changes they want. There are Tesco staff there to ask questions of though.

As to where to start a group Lin, I think it is a question of finding like minded people who are willing to give a lot of their time and some of their money to enable others with similar views to join them to debate the issues and take things forward. It can be hard work, time consuming and extremely frustrating when you are up against 'the system' and all the interested parties. (Exmouth people taking on Asda Walmart, the worlds largest corporation, is really a David and Goliath scenario.)

I do recognise that Exmouth hasn't got everything that its inhabitants may want in terms of shops - I suspect that you cannot get your childrens clothes here and would appreciate a George outlet. I was in Exeter myself shopping for clothes, and books today (the book was one Asda would never stock and I doubt that they would have my size and style of clothing). I think though that we must accept that Exmouth shops will never meet all our needs, there will always be reasons to go to Exeter or somewhere else for some things. What we should be able to do is get most of the things we need in our daily lives in Exmouth and at the same time have a town centre that is a vibrant and pleasant place to spend time in.

I hope some of this helps understanding where I come from and why I hold some of my views, and that I am trying to take on board your views too. Again, I am sorry to have gone on!

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by sceptic - 2008/04/12 05:25

Admin

That report is, unfortunately, old news. It relates to the results of the second of the Unlocking Exmouth 'consultations' when EDDC's ideas were rejected by those in the town who voted. Those votes led to EDDC telling us that they would drop promoting the estuaryside as a site for a superstore because "The people of Exmouth have spoken and we are listening" The EDDC News Service press release of 22nd February contains the empty promises.(now you know why I use the sceptic name!)

I am not a member of ECF but know many who are. As was mentioned in the Journal, the group are active again because of the turn around by EDDC. Actually they have stayed active but in other areas, they did their 'Vision for Exmouth' survey and have tried to get the Imperial Recreation ground listed as a village green to preserve it. As to the 'new Tesco' my guess is that it will make some, many perhaps, but not all, happy. I would still like to see a good food store in the town centre in an appropriate location that will enhance and not threaten the existing facilities. Not everyone can get to Tesco easily. I expect it will always remain popular with many Sandy Bay visitors. An enlarged Tesco will remove some of the EDDC's arguments for needing a new supermarket as they will no longer be 'overtrading'- as EDDC put it.

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/04/12 06:16

It seems to me that all parties involved are passionate about each of these views. I have found the views expressed so far very interesting and they are both giving valid points. I also know from the statistics on this thread that there are many people reading this forum and it will help some people make their mind up. I have also sent a email to ASDA with a direct link to this forum, as of yet, I am still waiting for a reply but it is my aim for them to come and give their side of the story (I know it will obviously be in favour but would be interesting to see their response). I will ask again, through those who read and post in this thread, please tell others about it and please ask them to come and place more of their views upon it, the more people that do so, the bigger the chance that views will be listened to, whatever the views are. In terms of the Tesco expansion, and the fact they just want to improve their customer service, I do think that there will not be a retained level of customers and yes, it will become busier as more people visit but is it the case that Tesco are only doing this because of the ASDA? Is this a good thing?

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by marnie - 2008/04/12 14:27

Hi everyone, we all (quite rightly) have our opinions in this matter and I can only speak from someone who really loves your town. From the very first time I arrived in Exmouth I was smitten with its beauty and friendliness. I sometimes think it's a case of the grass is always greener. I live in a village that is very pretty but has hardly any facilities lol to have a somerfield would be HUGE!! I chose to live here some 30 years ago knowing this. Our public transport is almost non-existent and to be able to shop we know we have to travel. But we know that to have a supermarket built would absolutely destroy the beauty of the place. I hope you come up with the right solution for Exmouth.

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by sceptic - 2008/04/12 16:35

Admin

It would be good to get some involvement from Asda not least because it would give us all a chance to ask them questions. I have tried to get some answers from them but my emails have been ignored. As to Tesco's motives, all I will say is that the town must not be the loser in a war of escalating competition between multi-nationals. These companies will take their profits out of the town, locally owned shops recycle much more of their income locally.

Marnie raises an interesting angle with the comment about the grass always being greener on the other side. I am an incomer, like it seems 80% of the residents of Exmouth (though many have been here for many many years). My family have known Exmouth for many years. We chose Exmouth because it is a special place, the people are far more friendly than the area from which we came and it is outstandingly beautiful. We are indeed privileged to live here.

I can imagine that many truly local Exmouthians can be fed up with the perceived lack of facilities. I can only say that up country, people would give a fortune for their traffic congestion to only be as bad as the A 376, to have our town's views and natural beauty, to have the friendly nature we experience. Maybe it is also a generation thing.

We do need jobs for our young people, good jobs not minimum wage unskilled jobs in retail or service industries. Would it not be marvellous if we could attract some employer like the Met Office with good professional jobs to attract our youngsters. Should not our sights for new job opportunities be higher than till work of shelf stacking? My grown up children would be down here in a heartbeat if the were jobs in their fields were available here.

We are not alone in needing affordable housing. We could also do with better transport facilities. But for all of this we are still far better off than many.

If we can make our town a better place for residents, it will become a better town for visitors.

I have generally shied away from making many suggestions as to how the town can be improved, I have some general ideas that are to do with making the most of its natural assets but I do not come here thinking I know best, far from it. I do though come believing that I know, from my own experience, how bad things can get if planning and development is left to people with their own interests at heart and not the town's. Are any of the supermarkets really interested in Exmouth for Exmouth's sake?

By all means let us see development, but please make sure that development is appropriate to our unique surroundings. Again I apologise for the length of the posting - but I would never apologise for caring about Exmouth's future - nor I think would any here.

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/04/12 17:16

Sceptic, no need to ever say sorry for the length of any posting, it is through the length of your posts that others are able to see your passion in your views and the town, well done. In regards to supermarkets motives, I think it would be fair to say that it is for profit and making these supermarkets grow BUT that is not to say they can not have a positive impact to where they are built if the planning is done correctly, this is a fair comment to make and this is why there is so much talk going on about ASDA.

In terms of other issues with Exmouth, I can think of a few, they are not unique problems though. I could start off by saying lack of decent higher end jobs, lack of affordable housing (I should know, I am still looking for my first property!) but I also know we have a town council who do care what happens with our town, a town manager who has eyes on him from far and near for the innovative work he is doing and we are fortunate to live in one of the most beautiful areas in the world.

The A376 is, apparently, the busiest trunk road in the UK if what I hear is correct and during the holiday seasons and rush hours, it is not adequate but is all we got!

There is so much going on in Exmouth also, community projects like BayFM, a real sense of community, a police force who I am proud of, we are all lucky and as said, nothing can be taken for granted.

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by moonwolf - 2008/04/12 17:43

sceptic wrote:

admin

The other point is that two hours parking will not give one much time for linked shopping in the town even if it was likely that many would want to do so.

Very good point sceptic! (although, I'm a bit late with my response :blush:)

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by rabbit - 2008/04/12 21:47

Reference ASDA I think our politicians should come clean and tell us the truth, 23,000sq ft was quoted by them but ASDA are quoting 45000sq metres that's three times the size of B&Q add a car park at least three times the size, so where's the room for everything else their proposing? People will travel from Sidmouth Cullipton Tiverton Honiton and every small village between the roads into Exmouth are blocked already it will be total gridlock if they build in Exmouth. Build it at Sowton if they need to build one at all. The estuary land was given to EDC when Exmouth town council was abolished we now have our own town council again so the land should be given back not sold off for the money to fund a new council office at Cranbrook. Also 50% of the funding for the swimming pool was given by the townspeople of Exmouth, what right do EDC have in having it demolished. I say NO NO NO to ASDA until we get the TRUTH then we can decide on the true facts. rabbit

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by sceptic - 2008/04/13 19:46

Just an update on the Tesco plans for any of you who might be interested. I visited the store this morning (Sunday) and see that they have an information board about the proposed extension on display there. It shows their proposals and makes various comments. There is also a take away pamphlet which includes a "Have your say" section.

They are asking some broader questions including what the Exmouth Community needs and what facilities are lacking or need improving, and I find this particularly pleasing because I know that the Exmouth Residents Association, of which I am a member, told Tesco researchers that they felt Tesco could and should do more for the town.

Whatever your feelings about the proposals I would encourage you to visit the store if only to collect a 'Have your Say' form and make your views, whatever they may be, known. Closing date for forms is 25th April.

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/04/13 19:49

Excellent, I will contact Tesco and see if they would like to post there views on the Exmouth Online forums.

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by Lin - 2008/04/14 01:46

I'll try to respond to your points in turn...

If you look at many of the Asda store buildings they usually have three sides that are just plain (usually white and looking like a sort of corrugated iron) walls, the Newton Abbot store is like that to a large extent. Like their American parent company Walmart stores, they are not striking architectural buildings, just great big sheds.

I realise they aren't the prettiest buildings in the world, but they can be disguised with trees, fencing, shrubery etc (although they will obviously take a while to grow)!

I have already mentioned the London Inn as an alternative, some have suggested a store on the KFC roundabout (not stretching from the estuary site though) indeed the Town council supported that idea, an improved Somerfield would help

I thought the London Inn site had been rejected as it wasn't large enough? Not only that, if Asda were to build their store there then traffic through the town centre would increase in more built areas. If Somerfield was improved, it may help, but unless it's enlarged dramatically and free parking in the town centre is offered I don't think it would entice many more people to go there.

There are many rumours that the Post Office is to be sold and that site could make a good store of a more suitable size. I do hope these are just rumours - or at least that they will move the Post Office to another location in the town.

I was told that they did not expect to draw many more customers as there are not that many places to draw them from, but that they expected shopping to be a more pleasant experience.

I don't believe that for one minute! The only way they would consider enlarging the store would be if they thought they could pay for it with larger turnover! It's the only thing that makes 'business sense'. If Tesco do expand and Asda is rejected again, I fear that even more people will shop 'out of town' rather than shop in the town centre due to the free parking and ease of getting the shopping to the car (another issue I have with Somerfield).

It begs the question though, if Tesco don't think there is enough extra business in the area where are Asda's customers going to be coming from?

I would have thought that the massive increase in new homes built in Exmouth over the last 10 years would warrant a second supermarket.

In an ideal world, I'd like to see Asda buy up the Rolle College site and rebuild the leisure centre there (there would be enough room for a decent sized leisure centre then, with parking) which would leave the view from the road over the Exe as it is (which, personally, I don't think it's that great when there are huge lorries & coaches parked there most of the time). I would like to see waterfront cafe's & retail outlets supporting the Estuary along the estuary side of Asda along with the watersports facility and forego the housing Asda have promised (there are more than enough flats being built along Salterton Road as it is - again, another issue I have with this town! How on earth was permission given without objection to demolish 5-6 beautiful family homes in order to build more retirement flats? If anything should be build there, it should be affordable family accomodation)!

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/04/14 02:32

Lin wrote:

There are many rumours that the Post Office is to be sold and that site could make a good store of a more suitable size. I do hope these are just rumours - or at least that they will move the Post Office to another location in the town.

I have been assured by Town Management that these are only rumours and there is no plans for this to happen. If it did happen though, I did hear that the sorting office part would move to Dinan Way area, perhaps near B and Q leaving just the post office in the town center, cheaper for the Post office and would make way for more essential parking in the town center?

Regarding the new retirement flats, it would be great to have affordable housing in the town as I myself can not yet afford the huge costs of a first time buy!

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by Lin - 2008/04/15 04:42

I found a link to the older 'Unlocking Exmouth' plans yesterday... the proposed London Inn site included the current Post Office so it looks like it might be a bit more than rumour. :(

http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk/un_exm_presentation_20-09-04.swf

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/04/15 08:13

This dates back to 2004 and I think this is the old plans. I do not know for sure though.

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by unsustainable asda - 2008/04/16 23:07

it's difficult to understand how the local council can support a major corporation like asda in the full knowledge that a move away from mass importation of produce and goods is the only way exmouth, or any other community, will survive in the coming years.

peak oil will make these profiteers unable to supply us with (pesticide filled, non - local and damaging) food, and will leave us high and dry when oil becomes too expensive and eventually runs out.

it's upsetting that the council would rather put blind faith into an organisation with such a terrible background as asda. rather than be serious about enabling exmouth to support itself, promote the community and engage with the current environmental crises.

added to this, of course, is that asda being on the estuary is a shocking idea that will kill the local town and ruin the beauty that surrounds us.

a call to arms exmouth, don't let them make these decisions for you. find out for yourself about the issues and let the council know that they can't sell our livelihoods!

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/04/17 00:59

Welcome to the forums "unsustainable asda"! A real good point raised by you with the sustainability of the town and will be interesting to hear more responses.

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by moonwolf - 2008/04/17 18:17

Yes, a thumbs up to that 'unsustainable asda'!!!

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by sceptic - 2008/04/17 20:17

I notice that Asda have set up a specific website to promote their one sided view of the development. www.asda-exmouth.co.uk

I notice several things about it, there is no forum, no facility to ask questions and get answers.

I also notice that in 'showcasing' the stores at Newton Abbot and Andover, they have carefully selected images that show of the best side and ignore their majority blank walls.

The must be so dizzy with all that spinning!

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by unsustainable asda - 2008/04/17 23:06

a letter i wrote to allison darling of asda:

Dear Allison,

I write to you with my concerns for your coming to exmouth.

I am very worried that you want to build a giant superstore on our estuary site. You don't need me to tell you that it would destroy that beautiful area, create immense amounts of pollution (traffic, waste etc) and, most importantly, rid our town centre of the limited trade it already receives.

You know what your stores have done to other communities, you know that our local shops can't compete with your prices. The reasons they can't is because they offer good, healthy local produce. whereas you offer food that has been chemically treated and imported from poorer areas of the world that have to give in to your incredible demands. What you plan to do to exmouth is immoral and will add to the ever descending local resilience of our community.

Added to this is the major issue of the amount of fuel you use to stock your stores. Peak Oil and Climate Change is a concern which will affect all of us in the coming few decades. You have not even mentioned any plans to support an energy descent plan (clearly because any affiliation with such a concept would mean you don't get to take all the money away from small communities like Exmouth, for your own benefits.) a few places are waking up to the fact that stores like yours not only give us unhealthy options for food, cheap clothing at the cost of the third world and a ridiculous amount of pollution which adds to our already dire situation. Rest assured there are those of us attempting to 'wake' exmouth up to this reality also.

I sincerely hope you fail in your attempt to come to exmouth.

chris white

exmouth resident

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/04/18 01:12

Thanks for the update and web link. Even I was unaware of this one! I have sent a email to the company behind this site and invited them to answer questions on this site. From previous emails, they do not generally work so if you would like all your questions answered, I urge you to use this link http://www.exmouthonline.com/component/option,com_recommend/Itemid,248/ to email this email address asdaexmouth@ing-media.com and invite them to join Exmouth Online given the reason you would like to hear questions answered. This will be of use to everyone be you for or against the plans. Thank you all in advance. (This is a new feature to the site so if any problems arise, please let me know)

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by marnie - 2008/04/18 03:28

As i have said previously I fell in love with your town some years ago now. Due to my daughter moving there I discovered a beautiful unspoilt extremely friendly Devon seaside resort. For this I feel very lucky. I just wanted to say that I hope you all can do what is best for your beautiful home and I personally think that as lucky as I feel for knowing Exmouth Exmouth is lucky to know Chris White

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by Lin - 2008/04/18 04:27

Once again, I would like to ask those of you opposed to the plans, what you think should be done instead. Is it just Asda you're against or any major retailer? Where would be a more appropriate place to situate the store? If you don't want another supermarket at all, then how do you propose to deal with the increase in customers and their needs (because Exmouth town centre certainly doesn't cater for them at the moment!)? Are you all for Tesco expanding so that they can take care of it? Instead of just rejecting the plans out of hand, why don't you let us know how you think the regeneration should go? I want to hear specifics, not just generalisations and complaints.

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by Lin - 2008/04/18 04:40

sceptic wrote:

I notice that Asda have set up a specific website to promote their one sided view of the development. www.asda-exmouth.co.uk

I notice several things about it, there is no forum, no facility to ask questions and get answers.

I also notice that in 'showcasing' the stores at Newton Abbot and Andover, they have carefully selected images that show of the best side and ignore their majority blank walls.

The must be so dizzy with all that spinning!

It's bound to be one sided as it's all about Asda! Ther eis an email address provided for feedback on the home page - whether or not you get a reply though remains to be seen.

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by sceptic - 2008/04/18 06:13

Hi Lin

I will try and answer both you comments.

Firstly I am not sure how much by way of suggestions it is fair to ask any of us for alternatives to the Asda plans, I am not a town planner and don't have the resources of the worlds largest conglomerate behind me to flesh out any ideas. I do think we need a food supermarket and I believe there are a number of potential sites, the London Inn, the Royal Mail sorting office, the back of Boots/Sommerfield etc, and the KFC roundabout are all possible sites for such a store. I am not just against Asda, though I do believe that is the worst possible choice (and so did many who responded to Unlocking Exmouth 1)

I don't think we need a clothes shop, we are not Exeter and never will be. There will always be reasons to go out of Exmouth for certain wants, but Exmouth should have stores that provide the staples. A local man did put quite a detailed proposal forward for the London Inn and it was reported, with diagram, in the Journal some while back.

I am not particularly pro Tesco, in the UK they are in general more of a threat to the community than Asda. I am not particularly for or against their expansion plans for Exmouth, history tells us that once these places have a foot in the door then they will always expand - another reason for not having a superstore on the estuary, eventually they will want to expand it even further.

With regard to the Asda Exmouth site and questions/comments for Asda. It would be nice if these people would engage in dialogue and not just pronounce from on high. I have emailed Asda several times over aspects of their trading that might embarrass them - and have never had a reply. Do you know for instance, that they got into trouble with the Advertising standards over some of their claims, or that they had to pay compensation to workers for anti-union activity? (See <http://www.talkingretail.com/news/1300/ASA-Rules-Asda-Must-Drop-Low-P.ehtml> and <http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2006/jun/13/politics.supermarkets>) You won't read about those aspects on their website!

Too many involved with these matters are reluctant to answer questions in public and they expect us just to accept what they say when they want to say it. We have the Town Clerk apparently unwilling to answer questions here, the Leader of EDDC Sarah Randall Johnson unwilling to accept a meeting from the Exmouth Citizens Forum (according to today's Journal), and, on the face of it, Asda not wanting to get involved in a debate but just going through the motions. In the past I have written to both the Town Clerk and Sarah Randall Johnson and, like Asda my correspondence has been ignored.

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/04/18 07:31

I understand where you are coming from 100% in terms of feeling ignored, it is only because I am the administrator for Exmouth Online, a busy community site, that any emails of mine get any notice, otherwise, they will just get binned. That is not to say I have had any replies of everyone and as of yet, RE ASDA and Tesco, I am still waiting. As said, please click the recommend a friend link at the top left of this site and email anyone you want to ask questions to, inviting them to comment on the forums, this will be the best chance to get them commenting so that both sides can get some more facts and questions answered, truthfully. Another option is to join the For ASDA Group or AGAINST ASDA group in the groups option on the right hand user menu when logged in on the home page. You can then invite people to the group and organise group specific events and have your own dedicated forum!

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by unsustainable asda - 2008/04/18 21:00

hi there,

in response for an alternative plan other than asda on the estuary, the answer is simple. the only positive action that can be taken is to encourage local producers to start entering the town centre and increase market days. eventually local produce will be our only source of food any how, due to the oil crises, and the council must recognise that local resilience to change is very weak in exmouth, as compared to other small communities such as totness and falmouth. the phrase transition town will be heard more regularly in time to come. the idea of this is to look for ways that a community can lower its dependence on oil, and eventually support itself. a massive project, i know. but one that must begin soon. allowing asda into exmouth is a short term answer to a long term problem, and is effectively ten steps back from what exmouth needs to continue as a thriving community. with only supermarkets here to provide our basic needs, exmouth will awake with one hell of a hangover after peak oil kicks in. it may sound radical, but look at transition town totness to see how they are handling the situation, and you will notice that one of their objectives is to 'close morrison's'!!

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by sceptic - 2008/04/18 22:01

I must admit that, even sceptic that I am, I had not realised the extent to which some companies have added to pollution. On it's own Asda-exmouth website, Asda tell us it "has taken over 30 million miles off the roads since 2002". If it has taken that much off it begs the question what was the extent of the pollution before, and how much remains?

How much pollution is Tesco causing?

For all the spin about local produce, Alison Darling (Asda spinmeister), in one of her earliest letters to the Journal, struggled to identify much in the way of local produce that Newton Abbot sold. I will try and look it up, though references to local meat and plastic bags seem to stand out in my memory, not least as Asda Newton Abbot didn't have a fresh meat counter, and plastic bags???

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by marnie - 2008/04/18 22:39

hi I have sent an email to Asda requesting their input on this debate.I would just like to say that I have no experience in town planning but I don't think it matters whether we come up with an alternative site suggestion as Asda are quite uniform in their design of building and its situation .They appear to prefer edge of town positioning

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/04/19 00:10

everytime someone asks them to join, the better and the sooner they will register and answer eveybodies questions.

In regards to a survey I saw, I beleive that Tesco was the Third most enviromentally friendly supermarket, Somerfields worst and Marks and Sparks the most enviromentally friendly. I think ASDA was one of the worst but I can not remeber that one for sure.

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by marnie - 2008/04/19 03:03

I expect its an automated reply but Asda have replied with the comment that my email is important to them and they will reply within five days

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/04/19 06:12

i got the same one which will be a automated out of office reply set up on there server. I can do the same one on the Exmouth Server but it also send me a copy of the email doubling my inbox! I have not had time to sort this out so have removed it! Who here likes technology?! LOL.

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by unsustainable asda - 2008/04/19 17:33

hi sceptic, its nice to talk about this subject with someone. i think its important to differentiate between pollution adding to the effects of climate change/ and food miles adding to the shortening of our oil supply. both situations are terrible in their own sense. however, if we concentrate on peak oil for now,and assuming, as has been predicted, that we are hit with oil shortage by 2030, we are asking ourselves these questions:

how will supermarkets transport their produce?
how will we afford the inflated prices of food once oil hits \$102 a barrel?
how will exmouth feed itself with next to no local suppliers available?
what will exmouth be like without cars?

this is not an exhaustive list at this stage! what with all the questions peak oil brings with it. the scope of the two problems is massive.

as for local produce in asda, there won't be any, maybe a token offering but nothing to be proud of. they also will not stop plastic bags until they are forced to. companies like asda make their millions through the tragedy of convenience.

if you are interested, i am starting a campaign soon called 'awakening exmouth', i tall task i know! the idea of this will centre around a season of film, most likely starting at the blackmore theatre on may 8th. the films being shown will be to do with peak oil, such as 'the end of suburbia' and 'a crude awakening - the oil crash, we don't have a plan'. also a great film called the power of community detailing how cuba dealt with the soviet oil crash in the 90's... an inspiring look at life without the addiction to oil. also an inconvenient truth, for those that haven't seen it yet.... and most likely asda walmart - the high price of low cost, because i'm not convinced this silent majority we are told want asda have any idea of the truth.

i heard a great quote recently from a guy called richard heinberg, an authority on peak oil, he said.... 'you may call yourself christian, buddhist, hindu, whatever you like. but the only thing you really worship is oil, it's the only thing that keeps your life ticking over!' an intersting concept, i'm sure you'll agree!

cheers

chris

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/04/19 19:50

A interesting campaign you have a idea for here. Please feel free to send the videos to me (or if in you tube as a link) and I can place them on the site as this is something that affects us all. I will also, depending on the type of video, stick it on www.u4eco.com, the new site I am building (btw, any comments on this site and content would be most welcome)

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/04/19 22:59

All those people interested in the subject of supermarkets etc, please visit the Tesco Expansion thread here http://www.exmouthonline.com/component/option,com_fireboard/Itemid,33/func,view/id,151/catid,9/ where I have invited Tesco in person, after a meeting to answer any questions you may have. Please post any questions you have before Monday when they said to me they would have a look and phone me. Cheers!

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by moonwolf - 2008/04/20 19:52

Lin wrote:

Once again, I would like to ask those of you opposed to the plans, what you think should be done instead. Is it just Asda you're against or any major retailer? Where would be a more appropriate place to situate the store? If you don't want another supermarket at all, then how do you propose to deal with the increase in customers and their needs (because Exmouth town centre certainly doesn't cater for them at the moment!)? Are you all for Tesco expanding so that they can take care of it? Instead of just rejecting the plans out of hand, why don't you let us know how you think the regeneration should go? I want to hear specifics, not just generalisations and complaints.

OK - well if Exmouth needs more, then I would prefer Tesco to expand. Then the town centre businesses are not threatened and the estuary is not spoilt.

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by unsustainable asda - 2008/04/20 20:04

have you thought that if everybody who gave their money to Tesco instead kept it in the community, then perhaps the smaller local suppliers could offer value for money close to what the major stores can? that's my plan, i couldn't think of anywhere in exmouth where i would feel its ok to have an asda... but i can picture how wonderful this town could be if the local suppliers were supported!

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by moonwolf - 2008/04/20 20:04

admin wrote:

A interesting campaign you have a idea for here. Please feel free to send the videos to me (or if in you tube as a link) and I can place them on the site as this is something that affects us all. I will also, depending on the type of video, stick it on www.u4eco.com, the new site I am building (btw, any comments on this site and content would be most welcome)

I tried this link but it would not work!

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by moonwolf - 2008/04/20 20:16

unsustainable asda wrote:

have you thought that if everybody who gave their money to Tesco instead kept it in the community, then perhaps the smaller local suppliers could offer value for money close to what the major stores can? that's my plan, i couldn't think of anywhere in exmouth where i would feel its ok to have an asda... but i can picture how wonderful this town could be if the local suppliers were supported!

Yep, I agree with you, I don't want to support supermarkets at all really, but as a last resort I'd prefer Tesco to expand and just have the one supermarket.

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by unsustainable asda - 2008/04/20 20:25

agreed, but as you know, there is no room for this giants of greed! a buy local campaign is needed methinks!

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by unsustainable asda - 2008/04/20 20:25

the eco link works fine for me

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by sceptic - 2008/04/20 20:45

I am given to understand that one pound in every seven spent in this country is spent with Tesco - that is surely an

indicator of how dominant they are.

Last week I saw something on TV about Tesco and Harrogate. Harrogate was the last place in the UK without a Tesco. It seems that, despite them already having an Asda, a Morrisons, another big name (Sainsbury ??) and, if the TV was coming from Harrogate an M&S, some reckoned they needed a Tesco for competition. It begs the question will any number of supermarkets satisfy some and will we be really happy when every town looks the same, full of the same clone shops.

The expansion of the Exmouth Tesco well demonstrates that they are never satisfied with their lot, a few years down the line they all want to expand. I notice that Waitrose at Sidmouth was advertising expansion plans a while back. Let any of them get a foot in the door at your peril.

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by unsustainable asda - 2008/04/20 22:35

Hello everyone.

this is an invitation for all site users to join us in discussing the future of Exmouth post peak oil. Thursday, May 8th at 7.30pm marks the beginning of 'Awaken Exmouth's' season of film. We shall be showing 'The End Of Suburbia' at the Blackmore Theater in Exmouth.

This film presents the topic of how rising oil prices and eventual loss of all cheap energy is bound to effect communities such as Exmouth. If you are interested in how we shall tackle the difficult topics of inflated petrol prices (less cars?), steepening food costs (local produce?) and introducing a local economy then this evening is for you.

This will be a stark and eye-opening beginning to a summer of events aimed at allowing Exmouth to catch up with other towns such as Totnes and Falmouth in dealing with these inevitable crises/opportunities.

There are 99 seats available and an informal discussion will take place after the film for those wanting to look further into the issues. The cost of the evening is only £2, to cover the costs of booking the theater.

To reserve seats (recommended) or to find out more information, please contact Chris on 07878642169.

details of further screenings and events will be given on the night, and thereafter.

Sincerely

Chris White

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/04/20 23:20

If link does not work for www.u4eco.com, please can you let me now what browser you are using? I will try and sort it out then. It maybe a case that if you are still using the old IE6, then you need the newer upgrade of IE7 or Firefox. Please downlaod any of them here.

IE7 <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/products/winfamily/ie/default.msp>

Firefox (my prefered browser) <http://www.mozilla-europe.org/en/products/firefox/>

Thank you.

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by Lin - 2008/04/21 00:12

moonwolf wrote:

OK - well if Exmouth needs more, then I would prefer Tesco to expand. Then the town centre businesses are not threatened and the estuary is not spoilt.

I'll give you the 'estuary is not spoilt' part of your reply but the other part 'town centre businesses are not threatened' is totally wrong. Of course they're threatened because people will go to the bigger improved Tesco (I haven't looked closely at their plans but no doubt they'll start to stock more clothes... if not now, eventually) to get all their shopping as opposed to the town centre. A town centre supermarket will also take business away from the local shops - but in the main, it will take business away from Tesco, with the added bonus that people can walk into town (therefore bringing back business to the town) before they go back to Asda to get their milk!

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by Lin - 2008/04/21 00:17

unsustainable asda wrote:

have you thought that if everybody who gave their money to Tesco instead kept it in the community, then perhaps the smaller local suppliers could offer value for money close to what the major stores can? that's my plan, i couldn't think of anywhere in exmouth where i would feel its ok to have an asda... but i can picture how wonderful this town could be if the local suppliers were supported!

This is a lovely idea in principle but I really don't see mum's with babies and toddlers wanting to traipse from the greengrocer to the butcher to the grocery store in the rain and wind whilst having to pay for parking that is a fair walk from the shops welcoming it. Convenience is a modern day need (mainly due to the time constraints of working families) that is met by supermarkets such as Tesco and Asda.

With regard to the impending oil crisis, I will admit, I know nothing about it and wouldn't have given it a second thought, however, if this crisis does arise, do you not think that the supermarket giants would then have to start purchasing from local suppliers to cut down on their own transport costs?

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by unsustainable asda - 2008/04/21 00:54

hi lin,

with regard to your first paragraph, convenience is a modern need, but one that is unsustainable and will have to change quite soon. this why peak oil is being talked about as an opportunity rather than a crises. the bonds of family/friendship and community will come to be relied upon rather than oil/convenience. relationships must be restored and worked on amongst communities in order to face the trials of life without cheap energy. think about how that whole bubble of stressful working lives, lack of time for essentials (buying, cooking, growing food etc) and hurried parenting skills has been developed around cheap oil. now think about how that will all crumble away as we are forced to grow our own food and centre our lives around our immediate local area. do you see how things will change?

on your second point. yes, the supermarkets will have to buy more local produce, but this would not make any sense as local producers can easily sell it themselves once the global imports have stopped undermining their value. money will not be the most important thing, food, water, energy and community will.

i hope you will join in with the film screenings at the blackmore theatre in may. you clearly have an interest in how all this fits together, and the film on may 8th, 'end of suburbia' will give a complete breakdown of how oil has enabled the lives we now lead, and how it's depletion will force us into more localised lifestyles.

cheers

chris

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/04/21 01:19

It certainly does sound a really interesting subject and I for one am very keen on the environment where I can be. I will not make a 100% promise I will be there but I certainly will try to be in May. One thing I find really interesting is Honda launching there Hydrogen powered car at the beginning of next year (I think). This will certainly be a good test to harmless emissions.

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by sceptic - 2008/04/21 01:22

I agree that an enlarged Tesco will perhaps be a continued threat to some of our town centre businesses - though the bulk of the damage has already probably been done. However, their threat is as nothing compared to an edge of town centre superstore.

A town centre foodstore would only be competition for the veg shop and Safeway I think. If it sold meat and fish then it would have to be good meat and fish to compete with our existing retailers in that field. Town centres need limited free parking to attract customers to their centres, charging everyone plays into out of town supermarkets hands.

As to convenience, I think it may be becoming an excessively expensive goal that is socially and ecologically unsustainable in a world where we are going to have to think of the impact on the world of our personal habits. It frightens me what sort of world we are leaving for our children and grandchildren.

Look at the chaos in the money market right now and imagine the situation when fuel goes a similar way.

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by sceptic - 2008/04/21 05:33

Anyone else played about with the mysupermarket.com link at the bottom of the page?

Interesting results. My trolley was cheapest with Tesco at 37.93, followed by Asda at 41.13 and then Sainsbury at 45.43 - but the latter offered highest value produce swaps - maybe we need a Sainsbury !

:)

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by moonwolf - 2008/04/21 18:18

Lin wrote:

moonwolf wrote:

A town centre supermarket will also take business away from the local shops - but in the main, it will take business away from Tesco, with the added bonus that people can walk into town (therefore bringing back business to the town) before they go back to Asda to get their milk!

But Asda will sell 'everything' (and more cheaply) so people won't be bothered to walk into town. Also with the free parking being restricted to a max. 2 hours, then there won't be time to include other shopping.

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by moonwolf - 2008/04/21 18:23

Lin wrote:

unsustainable asda wrote:

With regard to the impending oil crisis, I will admit, I know nothing about it and wouldn't have given it a second thought, however, if this crisis does arise, do you not think that the supermarket giants would then have to start purchasing from local suppliers to cut down on their own transport costs?

But will there be any local suppliers left once the supermarkets have full control? Will they have all gone out of business?

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by sceptic - 2008/04/21 18:47

Forgive me if I have mentioned this here already but I see a few are falling into a trap that I and many others did - once. The theory of linked trips is argued to suggest that people visiting say an Asda on the estuaryside, will also visit the town centre to shop. The so called Exmouth champion, (that councillor from miles away) urged us to try the 'roundabout' test - and in doing so disclosed the size of the Asda proposal. But it is a two way street and the greater flow would be from the town to Asda

The Asda Spennymore study, a copy of which I have said that 18.3% of the people they interviewed in the Asda car park said they would go in into the centre (but it did not say why).

It also said that 47% of the people in the street asked said they would go on to Asda to shop.

So, whilst a few from Asda will go to town for reasons unknown, at least twice as many plus will go from town to Asda - to shop.

You must also remember that Asda will be open 24 hours a day, not something local shops can manage, and their wide range of goods is the subject of the claim "Why pay more?"

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/04/22 01:32

I can not say any more than this at this stage but all those who have used the "invite a friend" feature to contact ASDA and Tesco is starting to work with some communication started. Where this will go, we have yet to see. Please carry on inviting friends to the forums to keep asking and debating as the more people who do, the more likely things will happen from it. Thank you all.

http://www.exmouthonline.com/component/option,com_recommend/Itemid,248/

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by Lin - 2008/04/22 02:44

Asda do not sell everything and they aren't always cheapest! From my POV, the advantage of an Asda would be that they stock cheap kids clothes and shoes (which, having had to purchase such items in the last couple of weeks, imo there is currently a shortage of in Exmouth). That said, I wouldn't mind which supermarket went there (I actually prefer Morrisons)... I just think there is a need for another store like that close to the town centre so there is competition for Tesco and a chance that people will opt to walk into town once in a while from the store.

I am talking from my own personal experience (I realise not every one will be like me!) but when I have lived in Grantham (for the past 10 years), I would often use Asda car park to walk into town then get the few things I wanted in Asda to claim my £1 parking back and I know many others that did the same. Had the store been out of town (as Tesco is here) then I would have skipped the trip to town altogether. I don't shop 'locally' in town as I find it too much of a bind carrying bags from one shop to another in all weathers as well as not being able to find all the groceries I want in Somerfield as it is so small (I went in there today with my Mum and could barely get the pushchair through the checkouts because it was so tight)! I do use the town centre when shopping for clothes, shoes, books, presents etc, as I did when I lived in Grantham, but until they make the town centre undercover with free parking and provide trollies to take from store to store, then I will always do my main shop in a supermarket, as the majority of others will too.

All I am saying is that a store close to town (as the proposed Asda will be) will encourage more people to go into town rather than if a store was built elsewhere (or expanded out of town as Tesco plan on doing).

As regards the impending oil crisis, I wish you well in your endeavour to make people more aware (as I said, it had never crossed my mind before) but I fear it will take some time for the public to sit up and take notice.

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by unsustainable asda - 2008/04/22 16:56

hi lin,

buying cheap clothes at asda is one of the worst things anyone could do... worse than buying their chemically treated and overly packaged fruit which has flown 10 thousand miles! their clothes, if you want to do a little research, are made and shipped in from third world countries where the treatment of the workers is appalling and many allegations have been made against asda and other big supermarkets about this. just look on the internet and you'll find reports about this.

also lin, the notion that going to the town centre to shop means going to summerfields is a little off key! the point of the town centre is to support local, independent shops that give good, healthy food often from producers in this area. it is sad to hear you say that walking around town is too much bother for you... this is the hub of community activity, something that supermarkets have done their best to destroy. not to mention this convenience culture is to blame for a lot of the health problems and social problems we currently face.

the trollies from store to store idea is very good! we should get on to that!

concerning the peak oil campaign.... you'll find that exmouth is quite far behind most other towns and cities (and villages) in getting to grips with this fact. so a lot of the public are already up to date with the crises. unfortunately exmouth has quite a negative attitude towards concepts that were't derived from the '50's! but still, slowly the town will wake up to the idea that our lives are dependent on a resource that is finite and is due to start running out, and that it will be people like me and you that have to work to make the change to a less energy-consuming lifestyle... we can start looking at this now, or we can wait for it to come and bite us!

cheers

chris

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/04/22 19:02

There are already trolleys in Exmouth town center may I add. I do not know what rules, if any Somerfields have with the use of there trolleys but they have trolleys I see people towing around town.

Is a fantastic idea though but work would have to be done in the main shopping areas like Exeter road which has a huge range of stores. I do not actually think there is anything that can not e bought along Exeter Road?

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by inquiringmind - 2008/04/22 20:20

The Exmouth Citizens' Forum has been fighting a campaign against East Devon District Council's proposed commercial development on the site of the bus station/railway station/car-park adjoining the River Exe at Exmouth. This area is a designated Site of Scientific Special Interest, registered under the Ramsa Convention for Wetlands. The area should not be developed for any commercial organisation, but should become landscaped parkland, reflecting the town council slogan 'Exmouth Naturally – arts, leisure and environment'.

No consultation with the people of Exmouth has been undertaken, and a petition of 11,000 names against the proposal was ignored. It is intended to continue to fight against any development.

Any commercial development will lead to an increase in traffic, reduction in available car-parking for the town centre, loss of trade for town-centre businesses, increase in litter adjacent to and in the river – and be an eyesore for all.

It is acknowledged that Exmouth needs another supermarket (not a superstore), but not on the banks of the Exe - preferably out of town (why not near B&Q and be in direct competition with Tesco?) Unless we stand and be counted, we will lose one of Exmouth's most valuable assets - the beautiful views we currently have across the Exe, and the loss of valuable local businesses.

A 40,000 sq.ft superstore will stock 'local produce', sell clothing and many other items that are currently sold by local businesses - leading to their demise.

See the following unbiased report:
THE CASE AGAINST SUPERMARKETS

When a supermarket arrives in town, a proportion of the local shops in direct competition will close down - this not only includes small independent retailers but also the High Street multiples such as Boots, Argos and Dixons. This disappearance of other retailers not only changes the face of the high street and erodes choice, but it impacts on the local economy.

Very little of the wealth generated by the supermarkets stays within the local economy. What stays is essentially the wages, although according to the new economics foundation, Tesco's payroll makes up just 7% of it's total turnover. Supermarkets are vacuum cleaners sucking money out of the community to corporate head offices and to shareholders around the world.

Supermarkets plan their 'campaigns' well in advance, purchasing sites in prime locations, approaching council officials and doing deals, and running well orchestrated media campaigns in the local press. Only once the site is secured and agreements have been made with planning officials (often involving the purchase of council land), will planning be sought. (Sound familiar?!)

While small independent shops often stock local products, much of what is sold in supermarkets, despite their claims, is not local. Their centralised distribution systems mean that 'local' products may be transported hundreds of miles to depots and then back to local supermarkets. Yet one of the best ways of keeping money in the local economy is through sourcing local produce. A study by The New Economics Foundation found that one pound spent in a local shop selling local produce puts twice as much money back into the local economy as one pound spent in a supermarket.

Source: corporatetwatch.org.uk

Don't forget - once it's built it can't be removed. Do you really want to despoil EXmouth and the beautiful views?

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/04/22 20:33

Welcome to Exmouth Online and the Forums inquiringmind. As you can tell, the topic is very much a sore area in Exmouth and what ever happens, will impact us. We, as a whole, what ever happens, have to make sure it does not impact us in a negative way. Please keep using the invite a friend feature on the site to invite more people to the discussions and to invite the supermarkets to the forum.

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by Lin - 2008/04/22 23:22

unsustainable asda wrote:

buying cheap clothes at asda is one of the worst things anyone could do... worse than buying their chemically treated and overly packaged fruit which has flown 10 thousand miles! their clothes, if you want to do a little research, are made and shipped in from third world countries where the treatment of the workers is appalling and many allegations have been made against asda and other big supermarkets about this. just look on the internet and you'll find reports about this. This is true of many stores - not just supermarkets. I am not fortunate enough to be in a position to pay a lot of money for 'home grown' clothes my children will be in & out of in a matter of months, as much as I'd like to. That said, from a quick browse on the net, it seems many of the more expensive named brands also use sweatshops to create their wares. And, no, I am not defending the use of these workers - I agree it is dreadful and wrong.

also lin, the notion that going to the town centre to shop means going to summerfields is a little off key! the point of the town centre is to support local, independent shops that give good, healthy food often from producers in this area. it is sad to hear you say that walking around town is too much bother for you... this is the hub of community activity, something that supermarkets have done their best to destroy. not to mention this convenience culture is to blame for a lot of the health problems and social problems we currently face.

the trollies from store to store idea is very good! we should get on to that!

It's too much bother because my hours to shop are limited - especially if I don't want to drag the kids with me. If I have a

spare few childless hours I like nothing more than a browse around the shops (although not for groceries)! The other problem I have with town centre shopping is that they don't open late into the evening (thought of that one as I was shopping in Tesco at 8.30 last night)! Please don't forget that many people work long hours and can only go shopping in the evenings.

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by Lin - 2008/04/22 23:24

inquiringmind wrote:

The Exmouth Citizens' Forum has been fighting a campaign against East Devon District Council's proposed commercial development on the site of the bus station/railway station/car-park adjoining the River Exe at Exmouth. This area is a designated Site of Scientific Special Interest, registered under the Ramsa Convention for Wetlands. The area should not be developed for any commercial organisation, but should become landscaped parkland, reflecting the town council slogan 'Exmouth Naturally – arts, leisure and environment'.

Lovely thought but all the time the council have a budget to stick to and income to make then they'll never landscape the area as it will cost them money as opposed to make them money.

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by sceptic - 2008/04/23 00:30

They could of course use the money that have made from various sales of land in Exmouth, Pound Lane, the rent from the Old Swimming Pool 99 year lease, the money they will make selling of Elizabeth Hall (against our wishes). They, with the County, could have better used the money that has been wasted on Queens Drive in the anti-boy racer mods

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by inquiringmind - 2008/04/23 13:30

Lin wrote:

Lovely thought but all the time the council have a budget to stick to and income to make then they'll never landscape the area as it will cost them money as opposed to make them money.

It was interesting that you said '...make them money.' It would be good to believe that the money would go to the people of Exmouth (perhaps as a reduction in Council Tax - or whatever it's called these days!), especially as the land belonged to them in the first place. However, any cash would probably end up in the coffers in Sidmouth, never to be seen by Exmothians.

Would the powers like to let us know how much they will get for the sale? I'm sure the Freedom of Information Act could be invoked.

BTW - the intended (I've given up saying 'proposed') new library is rumoured to be smaller than the existing (so what's the point of it - except to get people to ASDA) and it will be upstairs in a new building.

For those against the development who say 'It will happen anyway', get involved - make a stand.

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/04/23 17:28

I did not realise that the library was going to be in the ASDA store? Did I read this correctly?

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by sceptic - 2008/04/23 19:33

A library within the proposed Asda is currently proposed. I have heard that it is not as big as is needed - but then the pool isn't going to be that much bigger either I am told. It begs the question (sorry yet another!) what is the net gain of all of this for Exmouthians?

Sale of publicly owned property by EDDC cannot, by law, be ring-fenced for Exmouth- how convenient for Sidmouth! EDDC are particularly bad at answering Freedom of Information Act requests. I have made a number; they are inevitably delayed for as long as possible. More recently, and concerning the 'secret' meeting EDDC held in December, at first they refused to give any useful info claiming it was a meeting held under Chatam House Rules - but after formal complaint they gave some information. They can explain to the Regulator why they behaved as they did' (list not exclusive) All these fancy names are claimed to be means by which the council will tell us what is going on at an early stage, keep us informed, provide documents and consider our views. Some say they are rushing through the Asda proposals so as to beat the introduction of this new law.

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/04/25 15:53

I have had a reply from ASDA regarding the email to which I have sent. Please read below.

Thank you for your e-mail and it is good to see that people are showing an interest in ASDA's proposals for the site. We have launched a dedicated ASDA Exmouth website (www.asda-exmouth.co.uk) and email address (asdaexmouth@ing-media.com) to ensure that residents and businesses have the opportunity to ask us any questions and provide us with feedback on our proposals.

By all means, inform your members of this address and encourage them to contact us. We will endeavour to send people individual responses to their questions, and at this early stage this is the most effective way of ensuring that people's specific queries are answered.

You are also more than welcome to add a link between your website and the ASDA Exmouth website.

Kind regards,
The ASDA Team.

I have replied to this email saying that there are forum members wishing for a more direct response on the forums so that others can see their answers. Keep sending those recommend a friend requests to them and we may get some answers on the site for you.

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by Lin - 2008/04/25 16:00

I've had a reply this afternoon too!

Dear Linda,

Many thanks for your e-mail. We are glad that you are looking forward to having ASDA in Exmouth. We appreciate your comments regarding the location of the proposed store.

Under planning guidelines, new food stores have to be developed within or close to town and district centres – with applications undergoing what is known as a “sequential test”.

We believe the bus depot site proposed can bring a number of benefits, particularly supporting regeneration and drawing local shoppers back into the town centre. We understand your concerns regarding the impact a potential development on the site could have on the local environment and its wildlife and a thorough assessment will be carried out as a matter of course.

East Devon District Council is investigating future lorry park requirements and also working with the local bus company to look at alternative depot sites. ASM and ASDA's proposals do include bus laybys, which have been requested by the local bus operating company. We are seeking to provide Exmouth with improved public facilities that will benefit the town for years to come.

We fully agree with your point about creating an exciting waterfront. Our proposals include small units, suitable for cafes and small traders, as well as residential opportunities along the water frontage.

In terms of parking, we will do a full traffic assessment in relation to this. However, our current proposals will create an increase in parking and will also create separate parking areas for leisure centre users, train station users and town centre/ASDA shoppers.

Thank you for sending us the link to the Exmouth Online Forum. This is obviously a subject that lots of people are interested in!

Keep an eye on the website for further information on all of these matters. We will also announce dates of the public exhibition to be held later in the year, which will allow local residents to meet ASDA representatives to discuss these matters further.

Kind regards,
The ASDA Team.

Sounds like they've had a look at this forum already.

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/04/25 16:06

yes, it does sound like they have had a look which is very good. Has anyone else had a reply?

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by sceptic - 2008/04/25 19:17

Yes I have had a reply today, and it seems they are unwilling to contribute directly to this site. They do invite emails - but my experience is that they ignore any that raise any questions that might cause them any difficulty. I notice they hide behind "The Asda Team" and don't give names so you have not a clue who you are corresponding with. No surprises whatsoever!
Interesting though that they can tell us what EDDc are doing re coach park - not a twitter about this from EDDC themselves.
Also, do you note that what was once being touted as a 'transport interchange' is now reduced to a couple of bus laybys.

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by marnie - 2008/04/26 13:34

hi everyone i had the same email reply too

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/04/26 14:50

is the the same email reply to me or Lin?

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by King Ludd - 2008/04/26 19:36

"We believe the bus depot site proposed can bring a number of benefits, particularly supporting regeneration and drawing local shoppers back into the town centre. We understand your concerns regarding the impact a potential development on the site could have on the local environment and its wildlife and a thorough assessment will be carried out as a matter of course."

Cute! It's the 'bus depot site' now is it? In this - and in their cynical greenwashing PR exercises in the Journal they make it sound as though they're planning to get Norman Foster to regenerate the Bullring, rather than building a gigantic slab-sided concrete box full of sweat shop detritus and radioactive chicken kiev, right on the side of one of the most beautiful estuaries in Britain.

If the Exe estuary is now 'the bus depot site' perhaps we should all begin referring to the moon as 'the abandoned golf course'.

Jon

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by sceptic - 2008/04/26 19:52

They(Asda) would of course say that "they believe the bus depot site proposed can bring a number of benefits, particularly supporting regeneration and drawing local shoppers back into the town centre" - but still there is not the slightest whiff of evidence to back such a belief up.

Commonsense and the experience of other towns suggests that the contrary, i.e it will kill the town is the case.

Come on Asda, if you are watching, produce the evidence.

Exmouth is too precious to have it's future gambled with.

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by Lin - 2008/04/26 20:18

sceptic wrote:

They(Asda) would of course say that "they believe the bus depot site proposed can bring a number of benefits, particularly supporting regeneration and drawing local shoppers back into the town centre" - but still there is not the slightest whiff of evidence to back such a belief up.

Commonsense and the experience of other towns suggests that the contrary, i.e it will kill the town is the case.

Come on Asda, if you are watching, produce the evidence.

Exmouth is too precious to have it's future gambled with.

But there is evidence - I am a part of it! As I have said before, I often went into town when I parked up as Asda, and I know of many others that did the same so that proves their point! A town centre supermarket will do more for the town centre than an out of town store (like Tesco has done) would ever do! Surely you can see that much?

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by marnie - 2008/04/26 21:07

oh definately the same as your reply admin

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by King Ludd - 2008/04/26 21:36

"But there is evidence - I am a part of it! As I have said before, I often went into town when I parked up as Asda, and I know of many others that did the same so that proves their point! A town centre supermarket will do more for the town centre than an out of town store (like Tesco has done) would ever do! Surely you can see that much?"

I wonder if you can explain how small businesses are supposed to survive in order for you to walk out of the Asda carpark and visit them? Asda doesn't sell everything, as i think you mentioned in a previous post: you're quite right. What it sells are the most profitable lines in any given market sector. It will do market research and it will find that, say, in a bookshop the most profitable book to sell is Harry Potter. So it will have a small section in it's store selling Harry Potter. The local bookshop which also sells Harry Potter can't buy it in bulk and indeed pays more for the book wholesale from Gardners or Bertrams than Asda are selling it for retail. So the bookshop finds he can no longer shift his most profitable line and make the money he was making on that, which financed the rest of his business. Pretty quickly his business becomes unprofitable and he has to close. Now apply the same principle to the baker, the haberdasher, the grocer, the dress shop, the pharmacist and so on and so on. What you get is economic ruination for small businesses who can't buy in bulk and therefore must pay higher prices for wholesale, which translates to higher prices at the till. This is just elementary economics.

If large corporate enterprises like Walmart are so good at creating diversity why are we seeing unprecedented numbers of small retailers closing in the recent past? Why, in America, where the corporatisation of retailing is more advanced, do we see homogeneity everywhere and an identical set of big box stores in every town? The evidence is in and the evidence doesn't support the hypothesis that large corporate retailers help small businesses to thrive. Such a theory is so counterintuitive it hardly needs evidence to rebut it in any case. It's about as tenable as believing in father christmas or the tooth fairy and one suspects any adult who advances of it of willfulness.

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by sceptic - 2008/04/26 21:39

Lin

With the greatest respect let us see the properly researched evidence that shows how many people like you do go to Asda and then to the town centre, and how many don't. Simple anecdotal evidence is not sufficient. You can always find people who will say anything you want to hear (or not to hear). The issue is whether they are typical or exceptional. Asda's own evidence from the Spennymore survey suggests that their presence takes more people from the town centre to shop in Asda than brings to the town from Asda. There are people that say that an out of town store will only hit Tesco and not the town centre - but I don't see any valid evidence for that either.

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by Lin - 2008/04/26 21:51

Asda doesn't sell everything, as i think you mentioned in a previous post: you're quite right. What it sells are the most profitable lines in any given market sector. It will do market research and it will find that, say, in a bookshop the most profitable book to sell is Harry Potter. So it will have a small section in it's store selling Harry Potter. But Tesco do this too... and they take people away from the town centre (for sure)! All I am saying is that a store built near the town centre will keep more people in the town centre than one that is buit away from the centre (as Tesco already is).

why are we seeing unprecedented numbers of small retailers closing in the recent past?

I would imagine online shopping has more to do with this than anything else, after all, supermarkets have been around for years. Believe it or not, there are places online that sell products even cheaper than Asda do!

With the greatest respect let us see the properly researched evidence that shows how many people like you do go to Asda and then to the town centre, and how many don't. Simple anecdotal evidence is not sufficient.

Fair enough, but if they did produce the evidence, would you actually believe it?

There are people that say that an out of town store will only hit Tesco and not the town centre - but I don't see any valid evidence for that either.

Neither do I... but then, I believe that the people that will shop in Asda already shop at Tesco so don't see that it would have that much more effect on the town centre than Tesco (especially an expanded Tesco) already has had. The people that like to shop in the town centre shops will continue to do so, but the people that shop at Tesco will have the option to go to Asda instead.

Is Asda the real problem here, or is it really just the location? Would you be happier if Morrisons or Sainsburys came to town instead?

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by sceptic - 2008/04/26 22:19

Hi Lin

Re Fair enough, but if they did produce the evidence, would you actually believe it?

If they produced unequivocal evidence then yes I would, but I did study research methods and I know when reports are being fiddled to promote a particular point so I would want to examine the strength of the evidence. But this is all hypothetical isn't it as none of these reports that they Asda, the Town Hall and EDDC are talking about seem capable of being produced for anyone to examine do they!

I have always objected to the estuary site because it is both a dreadful abuse of what could be a fine public amenity site, and because any superstore there would be bad for the town. Note we are talking about superstores, not supermarkets, the former are classed as such when they exceed a certain size.

I do believe that Asda is the worst choice possible for the estuary - but recognise that Tesco, in UK terms, is more of a problem. But we have a Tesco and it isn't going to disappear (just yet- what happens when oil runs out may change things)is it.

When Unlocking Exmouth (1) took place, of those who responded and mentioned a supermarket brand, more were against Asda than any others. I merely mention that as a verifiable numerical fact. And in terms of 'balanced reporting', yes there were a few who wanted an Asda.

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/04/26 23:31

I was down town today and I saw "king Ludd" with others doing a campaign against ASDA. Me and Jon from Benophotographic took a photo of all there and we will place it on the forums very soon.

In terms of that email sent out to us, it seems like a general reply and I will ask again, please use the recommend a friend feature to invite ASDA and Tesco to join Exmouth Online and use the forum. The more of us who keep doing it, the more likely they are to respond on the forums or press release to the site. Again, this is a way of getting answers for questions from both sides. There email again is asdaexmouth@ing-media.com.

http://www.exmouthonline.com/component/option,com_recommend/Itemid,248/

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by moonwolf - 2008/04/27 12:40

Is Asda the real problem here, or is it really just the location? Would you be happier if Morrisons or Sainsburys came to town instead?

Lin

For me, the main problem for me is the location - by the estuary.

Although Asda is very down market and so is Morrisons. I'd prefer Sainsburys if there has to be a supermarket at all.

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by Pragmatist - 2008/04/27 16:42

Just like to say for those who don't get on with snail mail, and prefer the digital option, it's possible to email the editor of the Journal and have your comments published .. thinking particularly of Lin and anybody else who is in favour of the Asda proposals as there isn't much evidence in the letters pages of much support for Asda! The support comes from the Editorial desk!!

Interesting what both camps think of the silent majority. I notice that only EDDC and those in favour of the project claim ownership of their support! This is as undemocratic as it gets! We talk about truth and fact and evidence .. well , EDDC have yet to provide us with any. I live in hope! Incidentally did you know that the silent majority was an invention of President Richard Nixon, or more likely his spin doctors, as he was squirming not to be impeached for his lies back in the 70's !

In terms of supermarkets we've had the lot over the years, Liptons, Gateway, Waltons COOP etc etc I could go on! They all disappeared, as will Somerfield if we allow Asda their way.

It's very tempting to go for the "economy of scale" and jump at the prospect of what we think is "good value" , but good value, or cheap and cheerful comes at a price, and one of the costs is keeping a huge number of people around the world in poverty, so that you can have what Asda want to sell you(and Tesco and many of the others!)

You may argue that it is about choice, and, yes it may be, but my choice is to try wherever I can not to support those retailers who have poor records with respect to their purchasing muscle, because they do use their muscle to provide you with what you want ... and I mean what you want , NOT as you've said what you need. There's a difference.

The "one stop shop" was very popular for a while, but just look at what they've grown into, and how they have devastated and steamrolled the competition. It is unhealthy.

And contrary to what you think, there are a number of positive alternative options proposed by ECF ECA and Exmouth Residents Association ... perhaps you just need to be aware of that!

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/04/27 18:02

Welcome to the Exmouth Online forums and thank you for your comments. Regarding the Journal, please mention the Exmouth Online forums and the discussion in your letters to them.

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by moonwolf - 2008/04/27 20:12

admin wrote:

Welcome to the Exmouth Online forums and thank you for your comments. Regarding the Journal, please mention the Exmouth Online forums and the discussion in your letters to them.

I sent an email for the 'letters page' to the Journal to bring attention to this forum, but it was not published!

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/04/27 20:30

Thank you Moonwolf. It is the same as the ASDA Team, the more people do it, the more likely it will be to be published. I am hoping to get a editorial still in the paper bringing the attention of the forums and the site so please watch this space.

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by unsustainable asda - 2008/04/28 11:58

i can't tell you how sad all this is making me feel. it is clear for everyone to see that those who oppose asda and development on the exe are literate in their arguments and knowledgeable in their accounts of how exmouth will be affected.

those for the asda/development are relying purely on unsubstantiated claims by the corporation and the council... both of whom, we all know, are only interested in the money and have little vision for the future of exmouth, england, uk, the world.

i wish their was more fight and urgency in exmouth, that people would look to themselves and to their community rather than accept what is thrown at them by powerful organisations.

the shudder i get when people look at me, smile and say 'yeah, but i want asda to come 'cos it's competition for tesco!' it's horrible. the education system has played it's part in creating mindless, unquestioning citizens happy to put there trust in bodies that have already been proven to be destroying our planet in many ways!

for all those who know this is a terribly bad step for exmouth, who know with their minds and their hearts, i suggest we all make a massive effort to come together, get involved, get active. even if we don't keep them out, we might sow a few seeds of concern in those residents who have yet to find any autonomy in their own lives.

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by sceptic - 2008/04/28 12:17

On the appropriateness, or otherwise, of the estuary side site, can you imagine EDDC suggesting an Asda (or similar) in the Kiln Car Park at Budleigh? They would be laughed out of office.
Why should our Exe estuaryside - which in ecological terms is more important than the similarly beautiful Otter - be treated any differently?

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by inquiringmind - 2008/04/28 13:26

Although I am a keen supporter of the Exmouth Citizens' Forum, I believe that they have muddied the waters by using the slogan 'No Asda on the Exe' - that almost implies that they would be happy with a Morrisons, etc. I think that the issue should be 'No Commercial Development on the Exe' (although that wouldn't fit on the badges!). Many Exmothians do want a new supermarket (but not necessarily a superstore), and I consider that they should be made more aware of the impact regarding the location.

First, fight against EDDC to prevent the sale of the land to any developer, and any future commercial development on the estuary - then, as a separate issue, fight against having an Asda, Morrisons, etc. in town. Liverton Business Park would be ideal for a competitor to Tescos - they could then battle over prices, to the benefit of the customer. Somerfields could remain (but Somerfields, please sort yourself out - you're a mess!)for those shopping in town.

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by Pragmatist - 2008/04/28 14:14

The reason for "No Asda on the Exe" is purely because Asda have purchased an interest in the site currently leased by Devon County Council to Stagecoach. EDDC have nominated ASM/Walmart as their preferred option on this site because, as things stand, ONLY ASDA can bid, having purchased the option on the lease. This means that if ANY other potential developer wants to bid on the site, EDDC would have to pay compensation to ASDA for their loss of "interest" There should be NO 40,000 sq ft monolith on the Exe whoever the developer represents.

What I want to know, and what the people of Exmouth need to ask is, when did Asda take out this option, and why? I

think it's a no brainer. They and their competitors have been buying up options in this way for years, all over the country, just waiting for the moment to pounce.

It's a long way away yet, I hope, but those who know where the archery club is on the top road round the common to B.Salterton should be aware that the fields opposite are ALREADY in the hands of a local developer who will sit tight until such time as EDDC grant permission to build. The profits made will be immoral, and every bit of available land will be back filled towards Exmouth with properties, increasing the size of our lovely town even further, and thereby putting more pressure for EDDC to provide shopping facilities for the thousands who will live there.

35 years ago I lived in Little Meadow. At that time local searches revealed there were no plans to extend Exmouth any further. Now tell me those of you who have only been here for 5 minutes, where do you see this stopping if we want to retain the ambience of our seaside town??

Having been here for over 40 years, I can tell you that if we want to retain a town in which we want to bring up our children, this MUST be stopped, and it's up to us to keep putting the boot in "metaphorically of course!" otherwise EDDC will continue to use Exmouth as a dumping ground for whatever suits them, whilst retaining the charm and peacefulness of their own little tory areas in East Devon.

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by sceptic - 2008/04/28 14:15

I am not a member of ECF (in fact they don't have members as such only supporters) but I do generally support much of what they stand for. I think they are treated very badly by EDDC and others who should be impartial office holders. I think we owe them a debt of gratitude for sorting out EDDC at the times of Unlocking Exmouth 1 and Unlocking Exmouth 2. It is clear that they have massive support both within and without the town; a 10,000+ petition (which I signed) was the biggest expression of public opinion ever experienced in Exmouth.

I have a great deal of sympathy about their (ECF) choice of words at times as there are always plenty who seek to ascribe various meanings to whatever form of words they use. I think the Referendum which they organised was on the issue of "No development on the Estuary side" but that too drew criticisms. Frankly, I don't think it possible to come up with a form of words that will satisfy all.

I reason that they say "No to Asda" because the only threat at the moment is from Asda. Rather than assume that they might say yes to Morrisons etc, one should ask them- but then their answer would scuttle some of the conspiracists. When they were first formed it was said that they were against any form of development on the estuary (i.e that it should stay as it is) I know, talking to some of them, that they would welcome a greening of the area and the removal of the awful parts of the bus station.

This whole exercise is skewed by the fact that EDDC own part of the land and are desperate for some capital receipts (which cannot be ringfenced for Exmouth) Devon CC also own a part including the bus station.

If you care to look at the EDDC website, at things like the sustainable community plan (http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk/ed_sustainable_community_plan-2.pdf) or the Statement of Community Involvement (http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk/plg-ldf-sci_march_2008.pdf) I believe that you will find that the objectives relating to public consultation and involvement are at odds with a council desperate to make money by selling the family silver. EDDC as owners (in trust for the public) and as the planning authority, are both judge and jury in this matter. Frankly, the sooner they are abolished the better.

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by King Ludd - 2008/04/28 16:15

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by King Ludd - 2008/04/29 07:33

@ unsustainable asda 'the shudder i get when people look at me, smile and say 'yeah, but i want asda to come 'cos it's competition for tesco!'

I remember very well when that Tesco was built. Everyone in Exmouth said it would take business away from the town centre. It was just bewilderingly and totally obvious that it would do so.. It was unarguably the case. I had just moved down here from a town outside Oxford where the local council had invited in a Tesco to build on green belt land. There, as here, the council had found themselves with various financial problems and caved to a supermarket for a big wedge of cash to fix their short-term problems. So I knew what was going to happen. We all did.

But Exmouth council, at the time, flatly denied that Tesco would take business away from the town centre. They denied it would have any deleterious effect on town centre traders at all. The same old familiar bedtime story was wheeled out - where 'new' business is drawn into the town - from some other mythical place which is never really specified. Presumably this is a place full of businesses owned by men and women without mouths to feed and mortgages to pay, so we don't have to feel bad when they go to the wall.

But, oh no! Surprise! Turns out that Tesco is taking business away from the town centre after all! How do we know? Because our town council are telling us. Oh, hey, thanks Town Council! Who would've thunk it? A vast corporation parked on the edge of town flogging everything for reduced prices has taken business away from private traders. None of us saw that coming.

So, having completely screwed things up for town centre traders, who are you going to get to fix the problem? Yes, that's right! The people who brought you the problem in the first place. The people who everyone begged not to do it, but who did it anyway!

I think the phrase is 'and Jesus wept'.

Just to make sure the problem of business disappearing from the town centre is made really desperate Exmouth council are now allowing Tesco to expand, thus forcing the hand of the planning committee who will have to look at the Asda proposal. That committee will be faced with a leakage of business away from the town centre which will become even worse than it is now. Allowing them argue from necessity that we need an Asda to fix that problem (which of course it won't). Cynical stuff.

Asda on one side and Tesco on the other. And in the middle, Exmouth, stuck in a ruined no man's land in a war between two corporations. This whole thing is sickening.

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by Pragmatist - 2008/04/29 07:38

Lin, take a look at this site and perhaps associated sites .. let us know what you think www.walmartmovie.com I don't think there's any doubt that Exmouth needs another, maybe more! food/provisions retailer just NOT one of 40,000 sq ft (and that's just the retail area, not the overall size of the store!!), and not on the estuary site.

Incidentally, and only by way of example, I can buy Extra Large free range eggs at a local farm shop cheaper and better quality than Tesco's offering. Asda wouldn't be any different. It is possible to get cheaper and better quality by shopping around .. oh! and their flavourless vegetables which start to self destruct as soon as you get them off the premises. Laughable!

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by Lin - 2008/04/29 08:11

As I've said before, I don't care who comes into town to provide the extra retail space Exmouth desperately needs, but the powers that be need to seriously think about parking, shelter, ease of use and hours of opening if Exmouth town centre were to become a viable family shopping centre to rival the likes of Tesco. It is no good having a butcher, baker and candlestick maker in town if people can't get there or don't want to use it for the lack of free parking and a roof over their heads. Not everyone has the time or ability to go shopping during daylight hours and require a late night opening store.

Regarding the fruit & veg... I disagree with you there. Whenever I have bought 'fresh' veg from local farmers markets, it has gone off far quicker than that I have bought from supermarkets (apart from Lidl's which were dreadful) although it probably is flavourless by comparison!

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by Pragmatist - 2008/04/29 08:28

Lin

Interesting!! I've read every comment on this Forum, and this latest doesn't seem to me to be consistent with your earlier comments.

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by sceptic - 2008/04/29 10:20

To King Ludd. That town just outside of Oxford - was it Abingdon by chance? That was my old town and having seen what Tesco did for it, and continues to do for it, prompted me to try and explain why Exmouth should not fall into the same trap.

I knew many of the councillors and planners and got the inside track on some of what was going on. In a nutshell, once they have a foot in the door, especially in an area where they are not physically confined, everyone is stuffed. The might of their back pocket sees to that.

PS. I have always got fresh eggs direct from the farm, along with spuds. Now they have branched out and I can get free range chicken and fresh veg (when I am not getting them from the allotment)They don't do BOGOF, you buy what you need and will use.

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/04/29 11:30

Please look at website rules now found on the website section of the sites forums.

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by King Ludd - 2008/04/29 13:05

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by sceptic - 2008/04/29 13:21

Know it well KL. Know many who used to live there,my eldest included. Note though the 'used to', can't think of any who stayed out of choice. I think it's strength used to be as a place to buy a starter home and get a foot in the housing market. Either that or where to catch a train from!

I don't think it ever had Exmouths advantage of having some character - so in a sense it has never had much to lose - unlike Exmouth which has much to lose.

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by King Ludd - 2008/04/29 14:15

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by sceptic - 2008/04/29 14:38

There is an organisation that is paid for by the supermarkets, I think it is called the British Retail Forum and they, rather embarrassingly for the supermarkets given they were the funders, found that on average, every time a new superstore opened up the average NET loss of jobs in the area was something like 276 lost - not so far of your calcs KL.

If anyone wants the references they can be found fairly easily by googling, or I will dig them out.

Asda can pay for a two page spread, or issue a press release saying they will create 350 jobs but they do not have the balls to come here and answer questions about what sort of jobs, what rates of pay and what job losses can be expected elsewhere. Try emailing them and asking for their view on unions, or why they were obliged to make massive payments for anti-union activities (see http://www.thisismoney.co.uk/news/article.html?in_article_id=406904&in_page_id=2)

All starts to look a bit different to the PR spun version doesn't it.

Talking of spin, did anyone see the problems flybe had in respect of Norwich airport and the numbers of passengers.

There was a shortfall which meant flybe was heading towards having to pay a significant sum for not meeting agreed targets. What did they do? According to reports they put on extra flights and sought to hire actors to fill places to take them over the number threshold. See <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/norfolk/7321306.stm>

The head of Flybe Public Relations is also the Leader of East Devon District Council - so when they start talking of their green credentials, just remember that some were seemingly quite happy to stick on extra flights and create more greenhouse gases to save money.

Beware the spin doctors!

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by Pragmatist - 2008/04/29 17:05

The head of Flybe Public Relations is also the Leader of East Devon District Council

.... well, well, And do you think the leader of EDDC was influential in coming up with their solution to the FLYBE Norwich to Ireland passenger shortfall???

Surely not !!

Private Eye could get some mileage out of this .. if it hasn't already!

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by Pragmatist - 2008/04/29 17:15

Lin, your contributions are very valuable to this debate, you are the one who started it after all!

If you ask anybody at ECF or ECA you will find that there ARE viable alternatives being proposed please, ASK somebody in either of these groups. The information is there, all you have to do is WANT to look for it!

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by sceptic - 2008/04/29 17:29

For the record, I don't think, and wasn't suggesting, that EDDC had any connection with the Flybe decision re additional flights. I do not know if said individual came up with the solution, I doubt it personally.

The spokesperson for flybe that I have seen quoted is a Richard Jenner and not the lady I am thinking of. (<http://www.uk-airport-news.info/norwich-airport-news-310308.htm>)

I merely point out the leader's connection with both organisations.

If EDDC claim green credentials for all their members then I think there are grounds to challenge such a claim in part, unless of course some declare an interest.

That was really the point I was trying, not too clearly perhaps, to make.

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/04/29 19:08

ORIGINAL POST BY SKEPTIC AND HAS BEEN UNEDITED IN ANYWAY. POST MOVED FROM A SUB TOPIC TO KEEP FORUMS EASY TO NAVIGATE.

Some interesting points made their Lin, I wonder if, for the sake of clarity, I can pick up on a few. Don't take it personally though .

There is an almighty difference between a supermarket and a superstore, the latter is defined as having over a certain area for sales (there is always a big chunk more non sales area)We are talking of a superstore from Asda, I have heard it described as twice the size of Exeter Cathedral - not sure of the numbers myself. Superstores sell a wider range of goods than just food.

We have to use our valuable time to argue against the development rather than put all our effort into coming up with alternatives. _object_ors are not paid for their work, they don't have the endless resources of the world's largest reatiler at their disposal. Asm/Asda are not interested in alternatives.

Just what is the need for another retailer, how should it be quantified? Much of the case for another superstore is _base_d on Tesco 'overtrading'. That situation is likely to disappear if they get approval for their expansion plans- and of course they will. So, are we left needing a small supermarket, a large one, or something as massive as is proposed? Is the need for a supermarket real or is this just an opportunity for the district council to make money from the sale of land? That one site happens to be owned publicly should not be a reason for choosing that site. There are others that have already been mentioned, some part public owned, others not. The site should be the feature that matters not who owns it.(although councils have additional responsibility to care for publicly owned land)

Of course there are people who want an Asda on the estuary - but are their reasons valid and are they many in number? Forgive me for repeating myself but there have been many opportunities for people to support the idea, EDDC has bent over backwards to tweak the numbers in favour of such development, but every time the majority who can be bothered to show interest have firmly rejected EDDCs proposals. Put simply, where are all these Asda supporters? Of those who have come out in favour, few seem to give what I would regard as reasonable grounds for destroying the estuaryside. That it is personally more convenient, or that one doesn't like Tesco are, to my mind not valid reasons. Reasons for should show benefit to the community - but it is not easy to come up with any proof of this I suggest.

When it comes to being tarred with a brush, then, in respect of this matter few have been so tarred as the members of ECF. They have had all manner of accusations levied against them. In the most polite, public officials and elected members have referred to them as trouble makers - that's democracy for you. A previous mayor tried to hold a number of people personally responsible for the financial costs of the referendum that was held in the town - it was done just before a vote on the issue and frightened some into not voting as they really wanted. It was a disgraceful episode in Exmouth's democratic history - though steps were taken to ensure that the record did not fully reflect what went on.

Why do some of us continue after all the grief it causes us? The answer is simple, we care about Exmouth and want to leave our children and grandchildren a place to be proud of.

ORIGINAL POST BY SKEPTIC AND HAS BEEN UNEDITED IN ANYWAY. POST MOVED FROM A SUB TOPIC TO KEEP FORUMS EASY TO NAVIGATE.

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by oy.dopey - 2008/04/29 19:25

Move the Post Office into the vacant Job Centre, build a good sized food store on the PO site, slap another layer of parking on the London Inn car park and stick a roof over the Magnolia centre. This planning stuff is easy!!! While we're at it - Bus depot to Liverton Ind. Est. and landscape the estuary side, Library (if it really needs to move) & Visitor Centre to the Lizzie Hall(Under no circumstances should this be sold!!). Job done.

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/04/29 19:27

:) I must say, from a neutra point of view as I have to be, your last post has me in fits of giggles. I would love to hear what others have to say.

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by Lin - 2008/04/29 19:38

oy.dopey wrote:

Move the Post Office into the vacant Job Centre, build a good sized food store on the PO site, slap another layer of parking on the London Inn car park and stick a roof over the Magnolia centre. This planning stuff is easy!!! While we're at it - Bus depot to Liverton Ind. Est. and landscape the estuary side, Library (if it really needs to move) & Visitor Centre to the Lizzie Hall(Under no circumstances should this be sold!!). Job done.

Now THAT is what I'm talking about when I ask for alternative plans! I like that idea a lot (providing the store is open late and has a far better stock than Somerfield)!

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/04/30 00:17

Wow, these polls are really going well showing a interesting viewpoint!

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by sceptic - 2008/05/01 12:18

Well, have you read the Journal this week? Their lead story could throw a (welcome?) spanner in the works. A new Lidl just up from Tesco on the corner of Salterton Road and Dinan Way. Surely the answer to all those who want competition for Tesco. Will it affect the town centre, or rather, to what degree? I have mentioned before that some think Tesco have done the damage to the town centre and that another out of town store may not do significantly more.

Certainly, the expansion plans of Tesco, and the prospect of a near Tesco Lidl, must mean that the need for an Asda on the estuaryside is massively reduced - if it ever existed. Now, is there any chance of Sommerfield getting their act together?

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by Trigger - 2008/05/01 12:35

Where is Waitrose and Sainsburys going then? LOL

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by sceptic - 2008/05/01 12:41

Have you something against the Coop and M&S Trigger ;-)

and what's the other one from Germany Aldi?

That will still leave some unhappy - especially if they cannot make money from selling off our land!

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by Pragmatist - 2008/05/01 12:59

-there have been rumours flying about for a long time re. a Sainsbury on the PO site .. The job centre, now closed, was once a supermarket ... no reason why it could not be again, or perhaps a post office, with the sorting section at Liverton leaving room for a third supermarket in the town centre.

Those of us who have been here for ever (it seems!)can remember before the Magnolia was built, and the then Gateway supermarket saw the demise of virtually all the others in town! This 'aint the first time round you know!!

Traffic flow in town has for ever been a mounting problem. As has been mentioned before, we live on a quarter section of the cake, the other three quarters being estuary and sea. Without major new roads, the traffic situation can only be improved, in my opinion, by clever and well thought out routes into and out of the centre towards the main arteries. The traffic infrastructure is just as, if not more, important than massive town development. We don't want, surely, to end up like Weymouth, with traffic backing up as far as Bridport and Dorchester in the summer.

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by Pragmatist - 2008/05/01 13:10

Just been on the calculator, Journal front page quotes a 16,000 square METRE superstore scheme on the table from LIDL In real money that equates to ... wait for it ... 172,224 square feet. I suspect that's yet another Journal error!! at least I hope it's their error..

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by sceptic - 2008/05/01 13:28

I understand that Devon CC have ruled out any improvements to the 376 for the foreseeable future. I must confess, I do not really want to see any either. Although many complain about the volume of present traffic, 'improving' the road will not inevitably improve Exmouth's lot. Those who think it is bad now really ought to see some places up country to see what bad really is, and what could happen.

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by King Ludd - 2008/05/01 13:31

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by unsustainable asda - 2008/05/01 18:39

some great ideas coming out of this forum now... king ludd, skeptic and dopey (sic) have, in a couple of paragraphs, put forward a much more plausible town plan than anything i've heard coming from the council over the past few years! i beleive that now is the time for community to reignite it's assertion over it's own affairs, and scrap this passive idea that we should let the 'officials' make decisions for us.

if i was rich i would commision these three, and others, to put down in a document the ideas that are being formulated, present them to the council in a official manner, allow the rest of exmouth to see that there are alternatives other than selling our soul. unfortunately i am not rich, other than that richness which comes from entrusting the citizens of exmouth to make the right choices. so gor for it people, meet up, set a date, take notes, make plans. make your mark on your community (i know you don't need me to tell you this but i want to add my weight!)

might i suggest that thursday night, may 8th at the blackmore theatre would be a great chance to meet, a couple of beers in the bar after the film and we can begin to churn up some action in this town!

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by unsustainable asda - 2008/05/01 18:50

King Ludd wrote: The great advantage of a co-op is that it's not profit driven. it exists as a utility for the community. It's actually owned by the community.

what a fantastic idea, this fits in perfectly with the knowledge that exmouth is going to have to be a lot more self-productive in the coming years due to the high cost of fuel/energy.

give our citizens the chance to grow their own, sell it, and reap the rewards. reconnect the fabric of our town and put our local producers to the forefront of our economy and social structure. i want to be able to visit the farm from where i buy my salads, veg and meat. i want to be able to say hello to those that work hard to feed the community... and i want to be able to learn from them the skills that will allow me to live a first-hand, healthier and more socially sustainable life!

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/05/02 12:33

Thanks again for taking the time to write to us. We did distribute a press release announcing the launch of our website which encouraged people with questions to write to us directly (you can view this, along with our other press releases, in the Media section of our website).

We guarantee that everybody that e-mails us will get a response. Using personalised e-mails ensures that each individual receives the most relevant response.

In addition, we are about to create a FAQ section on the website, which should give people more detailed information.

However, please do add a post to the forum which can point people towards our website and the dedicated e-mail address. We will be pleased to answer any questions and, this way, we will ensure that each individual receives the most relevant response.

Kind regards,

The ASDA Team.

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by sceptic - 2008/05/02 14:03

Ah the anonymous Asda team!

I can personally guarantee that they do NOT reply to every email send to them. Ask them a potentially embarrassing question and they ignore it. If they were to agree to answer questions on a forum then all could see how good or poor their answers were.

Cowardly conduct.

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by Trigger - 2008/05/03 01:15

Thank you for inviting us to join the Exmouth Online Forum. We have been in touch with the Forum's administrator regarding requests that we become involved but, to avoid duplication, we will continue to take and answer questions via our own dedicated email address. We believe this is an easy way for people to ask questions and get a personalised reply.

We will also shortly be introducing a FAQ section on our website, so others will get a chance to see the range of

questions that have been asked,

We understand the importance of the environment surrounding Exmouth's bus depot site. The development's design will be influenced by our aim to keep the store in keeping with its location.

ASM has been selected for its consideration to - and experience in - environmentally sustainable methods of construction and operation. In previous partnerships with ASDA, they worked closely and successfully with the Environment Agency at Andover in Hampshire, for example.

Careful consideration would be given to local wildlife and nearby Nature Reserves in Exmouth, with specialist environmental consultants engaged to advise and monitor any redevelopment works. Any building or redevelopment would be subject to full consultation with the community and the due planning processes.

ASDA is committed to its new stores consuming 30% less energy by 2009, with a target to send zero waste to landfill by 2010 and is also trialling new eco-technologies in two other stores, including a biomass boiler system.

We will keep the website up to date with the latest developments on this scheme, and we will be holding a public exhibition later in the year where you will be able to see more detailed information and discuss the proposals with us in person.

Kind regards,
The ASDA Team.

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by Trigger - 2008/05/03 01:23

The above is a email to which my Mum had recieved, a reply was sent asking about the impact on Traffic, plans for bus depo, library etc and what the impact will be with the vast number of cyclists using the muti million pound Ex Trail. Is the increased traffic going to be a danger to the increase in cyclists?

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by sceptic - 2008/05/03 08:57

Well Trigger I guess all your mother's concerns have been adequately addressed !!!!
I think it perfectly illustrates how they duck the questions and don't really give a darn about Exmouth and it's citizens. I am tempted to suggest that, if they are truly committed to full public consultation, and it is to be meaningful , i.e. they take notice and act on the results, we should ask them whether they will abandon all their plans if the majority of Exmouty say they are not wanted!

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by King Ludd - 2008/05/03 13:48

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by sceptic - 2008/05/03 15:22

In the unlikely case that anyone thought that ASDA might be undertaking environmental studies out of the goodness of their heart as implied, you should know that it is a legal requirement, not just a local one, but in view of the site's European importance, an EU requirement.

As to the comment as to how ASM were selected, the hiding behind Chatham House rules for the secret meeting last

December means that there are no minutes to show how they were chosen. Who knows what the criteria were? How can we know it was a fair competition and that the result was not manipulated in any way? We have seen from Unlocking Exmouth that EDDC put a spin on results, there is also strong evidence that the vote was not the unanimous vote as was reported.

One of the few things of which we can be certain is that ASM, ASDA and East Devon will only tell us what they want us to hear - and that we should never take anything any of them say as gospel but should check and check again.

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/05/05 22:21

Sorry for the delay, Jon from <http://www.benophotographic.com> who took the pictures wanted to edit the pics slightly and make them black and white and web ready. To view the non compressed images, right click and click view image. The pictures are as attached and as follows in the following posts. They are of the ASDA protest group.

http://www.exmouthonline.com/images/asda/asda%20_pro1.jpg

http://www.exmouthonline.com/images/asda/asda%20_pro2.jpg

http://www.exmouthonline.com/images/asda/asda%20_pro3.jpg

http://www.exmouthonline.com/images/asda/asda%20_pro4.jpg

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/05/05 22:29

Can we see any forum users there? :)

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by moonwolf - 2008/05/08 12:34

Nice to see the pics of the protest, but pity everyone was 'smiling' :unsure:

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by King Ludd - 2008/05/09 11:20

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by sceptic - 2008/05/09 14:05

Just wanted to record my thanks to Chris for last night's film and the discussion that followed. Plenty to do as a follow up - but worth doing if we value our town.

Thanks Chris

Tim

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by unsustainable asda - 2008/05/09 14:10

Thanks Tim, it was great to meet you and many others who have the concerns of the town at heart. it was an excellent evening and well attended for a first event. i want to fill it up for the next one though!

the discussion afterwards was good and i'll be sending a news letter around shortly with dates for the next event. i'm eager to get a core of people together soon to start some form of a steering group for this summer, if you, or anyone else has the time and will?!

tanks again!

chris

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/05/09 21:00

Sorry I did not make it down, business got the better of me and i was at home building more websites after my latest influx of requests!

Glad you like the pictures, I will tell Jon at Beno Photographic.

I also had a phone call from ASDA team today, details to follow soon.

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by sceptic - 2008/05/12 09:43

I would like to let all see a diagram that has been sent to me that shows the scale of the proposed Asda, and, to help realise just how big it is, it shows the same outline, to scale, at other locations. (I just hope I can upload it properly!) The red outline is that of the proposed store.

http://www.exmouthonline.com/images/fbfiles/images/ASDA_resized.jpg

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/05/12 12:54

I was wondering if the original is a larger pic? If so, please email me the picture and I will place a larger version on the server. Thanks.

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by admin - 2008/05/12 13:26

<http://www.exmouthonline.com/images/asda%20%26%20eddc%20110408rotate.jpg>

As promised!

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by Pragmatist - 2008/05/12 17:30

Not sure if there's a bit of confusion here ... the proposed sales area for Asda is 40k sq ft, the overall size of the building is , at a guess 70k sq ft , possibly more.

Still difficult to imagine, but if you do know what 40k sq ft looks like, then add another 50%+ on top !!

Above comes from the ASM presentation to EDDC last December.

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by King Ludd - 2008/05/13 10:58

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by inquiringmind - 2008/05/13 13:47

Going off the ASDA theme, but staying (loosely) within the Regeneration theme: can anyone shed light on why a strip/lap-dancing club is permitted in a family holiday resort but a sandwich bar is deemed unsuitable? The health food shop (now closed)in Exeter Road had a planning application for change of use - but turned down by Exmouth Council.

Is the world going mad?!?!:S

Perhaps my comment may be deemed 'not positive'.

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by sceptic - 2008/05/13 14:36

King Ludd, you are not the first, and won't be the last, to wonder how some of the actions of the town clerk fit his remit of being impartial in his duties. I do recall, at the time of the first mootng of a supermarket on the estuaryside, and it was drawn to his attention, that he had not long had a piece in the local paper saying that you could buy everything you needed in Exeter Road. Indeed our town manager has just done something similar in praise of local retail I believe. May I add another example to inquiring mind's comments suggesting the world has gone mad. Last Xmas, the Police budget paid for three pissoirs smack bang in the middle of the town centre, one only across the road from closed public conveniences owned by EDDC, To my mind,they fit perfectly with the sort of town that has a lap dancing club- and just goes to show what happens if you leave it to the professionals! The town clerk refused to tell me what part if any he had in the pissoir arrangements - though others have said he was involved! Frankly,I think anyone involved in that or the lap dancing approval should be banned from any future influence on the town!

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by unsustainable asda - 2008/05/13 15:40

Hello Everyone,

a quick note to let you all know that the next film screening for Awakening Exmouth/ Transition Town Exmouth is on thursday 22nd May at the blackmore theatre at 7.30pm.

the film is 'power of community - how cuba survived peak oil' and looks at the inspirational tale of how cuba lost it's oil and food supplies overnight, causing the locals to rally round and grow their own food supplies/work out the transport system.

even if asda do get their dirty mits on our estuary, the knowledge that cuba have provided for us will be indispensable when asda's world-destroying transport and production methods come to a clattering halt with the end of cheap energy.

if you'd like to know more please email transitiontownexmouth@yahoo.com and i'll put you on the mailing list

peace out

chris

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by Trigger - 2008/05/13 16:17

Thank you once again for writing to us. As part of a comprehensive planning process for the site, an independent traffic and infrastructure assessment will be undertaken. The results of this assessment will help to form our final proposals.

The library and sports centre have been identified as facilities that could be improved as part of the wider development of this site. Our proposals, which include a new bus interchange, allow for the introduction of modern services which would provide increased benefits to the community.

A new ASDA store would bring up to 350 new full and part-time jobs to Exmouth. These will include a wide range of roles, with excellent training opportunities available to all colleagues. ASDA provides a comprehensive benefits package to its colleagues, including a contributory pension scheme and annual performance related bonus.

The community has shown a great deal of interest in our proposals for the Exe Trail. To ensure the Trail meets the needs of its users, we have already been in contact with the Cyclepath Exmouth group and our final proposals will make appropriate provision for cyclists.

Please check our website regularly for the latest information on ASDA's proposals for Exmouth, including dates of the public exhibition.

Yours sincerely,
Chris Marlow

Chris Marlow | Property Communications Manager
Asda Stores Ltd | Asda House, Southbank, Great Wilson Street, Leeds LS11 5AD

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by King Ludd - 2008/05/13 20:24

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by sceptic - 2008/05/14 10:56

I have been passed this reply from Asda that was in reply to a question asking whether their consultation was meaningful and in particular, whether they would drop their plans for the store if the majority of people in Exmouth didn't want them.

Dear Mr xxx,

Thank you for your e-mail. Each piece of feedback we receive helps us to improve our proposals to reflect the needs of the community.

ASDA's consultation programme is designed to give as many people as possible the opportunity to provide us with valuable feedback. The consultation programme has already started through our website, and will continue beyond the public exhibition later this year where members of my team will be available to discuss the proposals in more detail.

The bus depot site has been identified by East Devon District Council as the most suitable site for redevelopment in the town. The correspondence we have received from a number of Exmouth residents demonstrates that our proposals are supported. ASDA is committed to the scheme and we believe it will support the broader regeneration of Exmouth and help to attract people back into the town's centre.

Please check our website regularly for the latest information on ASDA's proposals for Exmouth, including dates of the public exhibition.

If you have any further queries please don't hesitate to contact me through this email address.

Yours sincerely,
Chris Marlow

So it seems the consultation has started! Is this all we get before they lodge their planning application which then gives us just a few weeks to make objections that have to conform to planning grounds?

Well I now understand why it takes them so long to come up with a reply - they are so giddy from the spin they put on everything they are incapable of honest debate. PS. As an example of a far reaching community consultation, they up there with East Devon DC who managed only to get 17 members of the public to respond to a public consultation on public consultation- out of a population of 125,000

Note how they use the fact that they have (allegedly) received some letters of support to infer wide support. About as honest as saying that because a few people support paedophilia it has general support in the community.

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by King Ludd - 2008/05/14 14:24

"Note how they use the fact that they have (allegedly) received some letters of support to infer wide support. About as honest as saying that because a few people support paedophilia it has general support in the community."

Right. What a sick joke. There are no depths to which these people won't sink - no tendentious rationale they won't employ, no disingenuous argument they won't wheel out. The idea that they've got some positive letters from people in the community and therefore they can infer from that some kind of wider support is contemptible.

The so-called "consultation process" is pure farce - a pantomime - a profanation and mockery of real consultation - jogging along to one inevitable and choreographed conclusion. These people are 'manufacturing consent'. Who are they trying to kid? Us? or themselves?

Here's a poem for you.

GOING, GOING by Philip Larkin. (January 1972)

I thought it would last my time -
The sense that, beyond the town,
There would always be fields and farms,
Where the village louts could climb
Such trees as were not cut down;
I knew there'd be false alarms

In the papers about old streets
And split level shopping, but some
Have always been left so far;
And when the old part retreats
As the bleak high-risers come
We can always escape in the car.

Things are tougher than we are, just
As earth will always respond
However we mess it about;
Chuck filth in the sea, if you must:
The tides will be clean beyond.

- But what do I feel now? Doubt?

Or age, simply? The crowd
Is young in the M1 cafe;
Their kids are screaming for more -
More houses, more parking allowed,
More caravan sites, more pay.
On the Business Page, a score

Of spectacled grins approve
Some takeover bid that entails
Five per cent profit (and ten
Per cent more in the estuaries): move
Your works to the unspoilt dales
(Grey area grants)! And when

You try to get near the sea
In summer . . .
 It seems, just now,
To be happening so very fast;
Despite all the land left free
For the first time I feel somehow
That it isn't going to last,

That before I snuff it, the whole
Boiling will be bricked in
Except for the tourist parts -
First slum of Europe: a role
It won't be hard to win,
With a cast of crooks and tarts.

And that will be England gone,
The shadows, the meadows, the lanes,
The guildhalls, the carved choirs.
There'll be books; it will linger on
In galleries; but all that remains
For us will be concrete and tyres.

Most things are never meant.
This won't be, most likely; but greeds
And garbage are too thick-strewn
To be swept up now, or invent
Excuses that make them all needs.
I just think it will happen, soon.

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by bunnyone - 2008/05/14 14:34

How so very-very true.:(
that poem says it all.

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Posted by King Ludd - 2008/05/15 08:29

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by King Ludd - 2008/05/15 08:41

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by moonwolf - 2008/05/15 13:11

King Ludd wrote:

Like an executioner making sure his hooded victims don't trip on their way up the scaffold steps.

Your have a lovely way with words King Ludd :)

=====

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by Pragmatist - 2008/05/15 16:44

The Council is keen to hear from public spirited residents in East Devon who are interested in learning more about how local councils are run and in promoting high ethical standards among elected councillors and officers, both at district and parish level.

The position is an important and responsible one, which can involve adjudicating complaints about any councillor misconduct.

Anyone may apply, as long as they are not related to, or a close friend of, a current councillor or officer and provided they have not been a member or officer of any local authority in the last five years.

Denise Lyon, EDDC's Monitoring Officer and Deputy Chief Executive, said: "If you have a few hours a month of spare time and the enthusiasm to get involved, we'd be pleased to hear from you. The Standards Committee is committed to promoting high standards of conduct at all levels within the Council. This appointment provides an excellent opportunity to become part of the process to make sure that the Council conducts its business ethically".

To find out more, please contact Mr Chris Lane, Democratic Services Officer, on 01395 517544.

Don't know whether to laugh or cry!!

I also see that Darryl Nicholas is the town's new Champion ... but that his brief still states that he will be expected to "understand and express the opinions of the community"

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Posted by King Ludd - 2008/05/15 21:02

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Asda Website. Fun for all the family!

Posted by King Ludd - 2008/05/17 10:04

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Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by oy.dopey - 2008/05/17 20:22

So there's a big car park labelled 'town centre car park' which looks about the same size as the one that is almost always full at the moment, where on the plan is the extra parking for the increased number of people who are coming into the town?

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by sceptic - 2008/05/18 09:01

Yes, for all their pathetic attempts at explaining their project, Asda haven't had an answer for that one yet-and it is difficult to see how they ever will unless we are to have a multi-story car park - well they could argue that with their great shed, the views will have been destroyed anyway!

One other thing about parking. The time limit is presently 4 hours I believe at about 80p an hour. Asda's Newton Abbot is a max of two hours at £1.00 per hour (refundable if you spend over £X at Asda) Won't leave much time for 'linked' shopping in the town!

Find out what's behind the green door

Posted by King Ludd - 2008/05/18 13:48

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by King Ludd - 2008/05/18 14:05

"A sense of ownership"

Posted by King Ludd - 2008/05/19 08:14

Re:"A sense of ownership"

Posted by Pragmatist - 2008/05/19 08:38

"J" .. King Ludd, hope you are copying these to EDDC councillors inboxes ... they need to know! and bravo!

Re:Regeneration/Asda

Posted by Pragmatist - 2008/05/21 12:29

I've just had an email from the Exmouth Journal Web editor. I'd sent a link and cover details to a similar "parallel" forum which seems to have hit a dead end!

Web editor deleted my letter and link as it was interpreted as "advertising"

My personal experience with the journal and editor is not positive as I believe them to have an agenda which supports

the Asda and council proposals and have told them so.

I find it very worrying that the local newspaper appears , in my opinion, to be so biased, yet hasn't the "cohonos" to stand up and admit its bias

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Re:Out of Joint

Posted by admin - 2008/05/22 19:00

Just a gentle reminder to all using the forums, these forums are for discussing view points on topics such as ASDA and the proposed developments and NOT a place to post personal comments or attacks about people / groups. Please again, do not mention names in order to keep this a healthy discussion.

It is also my wish to post that my opinions are neutral and will stay neutral on the forums and any views placed on the forums are not that of Exmouth Online, East Devon Online and are the views and opinions of those who have posted them.

I would further like to add that there have been some posts deemed to be bordering on a breech of the forum rules and all posts have been modified by me and me only. I have done this to protect the site, the poster and the reputation of these forums.

A key point of the forum rules is not to post any names of individuals or organizations for the purpose of using such name to insult.

Again, it is my job to be a admin to this forum and as a result, feel it is appropriate, in the interest of keeping a forum available to use, that the above needed to be said. I am committed to keeping these forums open but administrating them, take alot of my time up. If further breeches of forum rules are noticed, I will stop and delete the whole offending thread, if rules are continued to be broken, I will stop the forums for a indefinate amount of time. Sorry to sound so harsh on the matter but I am sure you all understand the reasons behind this to protect users, the site and the reputations.

If you have any questions, please email me on admin@exmouthonline.com

Thank you and well done on such a well structured argument.

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