

Don't let Sainsbury's rip the heart out of it.



Support the **White Hart Action Group** www.savetheheartofwhitehartlane.co.uk

WE'RE RIDICULOUS!

and 'totally self-centred'.

Not the view from the WHAG of course but the view of Mr Reuben Lall, reported in articles in this week's local press. Mr Lall is described as the head of a Sainsbury's supporters group, name not supplied.

We reproduce one of the articles overleaf. It is of course not surprising that a vocal minority should fall for Sainsbury's skilled manipulation of this sorry saga. Their constant repetition of the mantra that the proposed store will cater for people shopping on a budget, without access to a car, and so on, makes Sainsbury's sound like the Santa Claus of retailing. And how lovely that would be — if it were true.

But lets see what the All -Party Parliamentary Group for small shops said in their report *High Street Britain:2015* published last year:

"The erosion of small shops is viewed as the erosion of the social glue that binds communities together" the Group warned that small and independent shops may vanish from the UK's High Streets by as soon as 2015.

And, we're sorry Mr Lall, but the glue that binds WHAG members together is not, as you claim, enormous wealth and a lack of care for others. On the contrary, it is a shared concern for our whole community and for the environment. We have a moral and social obligation to preserve these, not just for ourselves but for future generations. And let's not forget that

our democratically elected Council turned down the planning applications, thousands of people (in social and private housing, Mr Lall) voted against the plan in the local referendum, and even the Planning Inspector remarked "I can see that a national supermarket occupying the whole of the retail space would be seen as a brash incomer. Three independent retailers....would be much preferred". In fact you might say, as many people have, that White Hart Lane is a **ridiculous** place for a supermarket.

Of course there are those who think that saving a few pence on a pint of milk without having to travel very far is more important than all of this. And there are some who might think that this attitude is just a little bit 'self-centred'.

But let's not stop there. There's plenty of open space in Barnes and Mortlake — let's have a Sainsbury's by the Pond, a Tesco on the Terrace, and surely there's room on Mortlake Green for an Asda.

The WHAG is not against supermarkets, Mr Lall, in fact you'll be amazed to hear that most of us use them (although not Sainsbury's any more). What we are against is unwanted, inappropriate and damaging development.

And finally, Mr Lall, the people with the real money are Sainsbury's and their shareholders. We think you'll find that profits rather than public service are at the top of their shopping list.



Welcome to the exciting eighth edition of the **WHAG Weekly Update**—it's your free guide to the campaign to stop **Sainsbury's** ruining our neighbourhood for ever.

Inside this issue-

- **The View from the WHAG**
- **Delta who?**
- **Competition Commission**
- **Rigged competition and much more**

WHAGonline

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From the Barnes, Mortlake & Sheen Times 20.7.07

Opposition speaks out for choice After the wave of strong opposition, supporters for a controversial Sainsbury's in Barnes are beginning to emerge. The group, headed by 57-year-old Reuben Lall, say they are speaking up for the elderly and the not-so-wealthy in the area, who would welcome a new shop for groceries. They stand opposite the now well-known White Hart Action Group (WHAG), whose high profile campaign has been supported by the likes of Sir Tim Rice and Richard E Grant. The result of its referendum last month showed an overwhelming opposition to the store, which has already been granted planning permission. But according to Mr Lall, there is also a strong base of support for the store. He said: "There are a lot of people living round here and when we lost the Safeways in the Upper Richmond Road, we lost a lot of choice. My concern is for everybody in this area. If you can't afford a £3m house you might have a different way of looking at things. Richmond Housing Partnership have a lot of properties in Barnes, so not everyone can afford to shop at expensive shops. Whatever concerns people in Barnes might feel about this store, they should also respect the elderly. A shop on White Hart Lane and the comfort of being able to buy the goods without a trek would be good." Mr Lall has already started a petition and will be canvassing for signatures at Richmond Housing Partnership's fun day...in Twickenham's Marble Hill Park. He commented on the WHAG, saying: "I think it is ridiculous — they are being totally self-centred. They should sit down and look at why they are doing this and pay some respect to the people who cannot afford to live the way they do. There are others to think about."

There was a letter from another Sainsbury's supporter, a resident of Cowley Road, in the same edition under the heading "New store will sell items we want, not fancy quilts" and this can be found on the BMST website

From 'The Independent' newspaper:

Sainsbury's bid faces opposition of unions, family and pension trustees

By Karen Attwood

Published: 21 July 2007

Leading trades unions have called on ministers to block a potential takeover of Sainsbury by a Qatari investment fund, saying it was not in Britain's interests to allow the retailer to become "nationalised property of a Gulf state".

Delta Two, which is controlled by Qatar's Prime Minister, Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim al-Thani, and advised by the former NatWest banker Paul Taylor, has proposed a 600p-a-share takeover which values the supermarket at £10.44bn.

The Sainsbury family, including the former science minister Lord Sainsbury of Turville, who met the sheikh last week, are understood to be strongly opposed to the move, while MPs and the GMB union have already voiced fears about the future of the company and its employees.

Yesterday, the Sainsbury board held a meeting with Delta Two to discuss its proposal, which is to be funded with £4.6bn in equity and subordinated payment in kind (PIK) shares and debt of £6bn. A spokesman for the Qatari fund said: "Discussions were friendly, talks are ongoing." The fund has made it clear it wishes to win the agreement of the board and the family.

Sainsbury's giant carrot washer, and the rejected royal roots

How the mass market for 'local' produce sidelined a leading organic farmer and the Prince of Wales

Felicity Lawrence

Tuesday June 26, 2007

[The Guardian](#)

They were unfortunate suppliers to sack: Prince Charles's Highgrove farm and the head of the leading organic food and farming charity, but Sainsbury's did it anyway, and without notice. And while it was about it, it fined the director of the Soil Association, Patrick Holden, £3,380 plus VAT through his account manager, for delivering a load of carrots that its quality control system rejected. The saga of Mr Holden's vegetables and the rejected royal roots involves thousands of food miles, tonnes of carbon emissions, enormous waste and a giant washing machine, designed to wash and polish carrots so that "when displayed on the supermarket shelf, even weeks after washing, they still look like wet, fresh carrots". According to Mr Holden, who has spoken exclusively to the Guardian, it is a saga that shows that the supermarkets' current structures cannot deliver sustainable food, whatever they may claim. Sainsbury's says its customers and quality are the final arbiters.

The view from the WHAG

“Oh look, they’ve brought us a lovely wooden horse, let’s help them wheel it through the gates....”

You can’t really blame the Trojans, it looked nice, they said it was a present, it would have been rude to say no....



..But, as the Tesco price check swingometer battles it out with Sainsbury’s (“Tesco 4440 products cheaper than Sainsbury’s this week, Sainsbury’s 451 products cheaper than Tesco this week) and Sainsbury’s shareholders consider the bid from Delta 2, it really shouldn’t be too hard to work out what Sainsbury’s generous plans for White Hart Lane are really about.

This is a war between the supermarket giants. They need us when it suits them to fuel the supply lines to the front –someone (probably Euan) stuck a pin in the map and decided that a strategic outpost by the river was what the campaign required now. If it doesn’t work out, or they can’t hold the position, they’ll move on, just as they have done before. But by then it will be too late, the ground, strewn with casualties and laid waste, will not recover.

It’s not surprising that some will have fallen for the constant supermarket spin. Millions are spent working on the next slogan, or on hiring Jamie, Prunella or Victoria to present the friendly face. “See, we’re your mates, your friends, we’re just like you....” (please don’t mention John Cleese and the megaphone to Sainsbury’s –it still upsets them) “And look, we’ve brought you this gift, yes it’s a little supermarket, it’s not very big if you just count the shelf space, you’ll be able to walk there and it will stock lots of lovely things that you’ll really want to buy, and we can stay open until 11 most nights which will be great and if we get a licence we can sell cheap lager and

“No, I’m sorry, there’s something not quite right about thishang on, isn’t that a trap door? Yes, look, it’s opening, look out , oh b****! - we’re too late –they’re in

Beware of Greeks, or supermarkets, bearing gifts — it’s not always what it says on the box.

Charles Barber

The WHAG

(David Rossiter is on holiday)

(Editor’s Note- the WHAG has nothing against Greeks –they generally do great gifts- so please don’t write in)



Dear White Hart Lane,
Hope you like it
Love Justin xx

The Information Page

REMINDER — The Last Receipt campaign.....Here's the idea: lots of people have told us that they've stopped shopping at Sainsbury's because they're so angry about the Barnes development — of course it's not for the WHAG to tell you where to shop BUT, to communicate (communicate, communi-cate) your views to Justin, what you can do is return your last till receipt to him at : Sainsbury's plc, 33 Holborn, EC1N 2HT and explain that you are now (or will be) shopping elsewhere— "Try somewhere else...." you could even send some receipts from the supermarket or shops that you're using now.....and remember to keep a copy

This week's brainteaser**"Top-up shopping"** why do they keep calling it that -

" I'm just popping out to do some top up shopping dear" "What?" "Top up shopping—it's what I have to call it now" "Why's that love?" "Not sure really, I think that nice man from the Competition Commission said it might be something to do with calculating market share" "What's your market share got to do with it? We haven't got any shares....." " No dear, do keep up, it's about the share of the retail grocery market held by the big four, you know, Sainsbury's, Tesco, Asda, and that one that used to be Safeway —around 80% apparently..." "Oh, now I remember , that's why the OFT made the referral to the Competition Commission under section 131 of the Enterprise Act 2002" " Yes dear, now you've got it, I was just reading the 'Emerging thinking' document on the CC website, it's very interesting - do you want me to get you a paper? Greetings cards? Below cost lager? Prescription drugs? Car insurance? (to be continued....)

Barnes could be just like Forest Hill shock! In fresh comments, attributed to Justin King, it is suggested that Sainsbury's could have the same regenerative effect in Barnes, claimed to have been achieved in Forest Hill High Street, SE23. The suggestion that White Hart Lane is a "High Street" will of course come as a bitter blow to the compilers of the invaluable Geographers' A-Z of London which identifies only Barnes High Street and Mortlake High Street in this area. We can reassure the publishers that White Hart Lane is indeed a narrow, predominantly residential, street with a small parade of shops constructed, like the terraced houses, in the early 1900s. We understand that Mr King does not live in London.

THIS WEEK'S COMPETITION—WIN A COPY OF TESCOPOLY— THE BEST GUIDE TO WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT (yes we know it's about Tesco's – same sort of thing, they just seem to be better at it)

How to enter: Just call our premium rate phone line and once we've made enough money we'll name the preselected winner. No, we can't do that apparently. Anyway, just name the famous historical figure who said this: "L'Angleterre est une nation de boutiquiers" - the French is a clue. Answers on a postcard, as usual to WHAGCOMP3 c/o Pat's Food Store, 42 White Hart Lane SW13 OPZ to arrive by 11.8.07

NEW POSTER !

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COMING VERY SOON — YOU CAN COLLECT, OR WAIT FOR DOORSTEP DELIVERY

£££ The Fighting Fund — many thanks for all the contributions to date, please keep them coming — see the website for details:

www.savetheheartofwhitehartlane.co.uk

**“Justin:
If you
build it,
we won't
come.”**

WHITE LANE

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