



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

PADDY TIPPING LABOUR MP FOR SHERWOOD

Press Release

10 July 2008

MP WELCOMES MORE PROTECTION FOR HUCKNALL TOWN CENTRE

Hucknall is set to benefit from tough new planning rules which will help protect small shops through the current economic difficulties and create a more vibrant town centre said Paddy tipping today.

New proposals that strengthen the Labour Government's 'town centres first' policy and give councils more scope to refuse out of town development proposals that threaten the survival of high streets and small shops, are published today for consultation.

Labour's policy has already helped revive town centres. There is more retail development in and around town centres than at any time during the last decade. But the Government wants to do more now to protect local shops at the heart of communities - particularly when we know that many are currently experiencing tough times on the high street.

Labour's revised policy will remove the blunt and simplistic 'need test' and introduce a tough new 'impact test' for planning applications, which will give councils a better tool to prevent big developments that put small shops and town centres at risk. Using this test, Councils will now examine more factors including retail diversity, consumer spending, loss of trade, impact on town centre investment, scope for regeneration and job creation to ensure the vibrancy of town centres and high streets is protected against harmful development.

Paddy said: "This is good news for Hucknall. The Government is committed to ensuring continued prosperity in tougher times and these new planning rules will help preserve our town centre.

There's a lot that needs to be done to strengthen Hucknall's town centre. At last all the partners are working together. Some of the proposals like pedestrianisation are controversial but we need a robust debate. There's an opportunity for a brighter, greener, cleaner future.

Ends.

Note to Editors

1. The consultation document *Proposed Changes to Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for Town Centres* was published today. This sets out revisions to Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for Town Centres (ODPM, 2005) and takes forward the proposals to improve the effectiveness of town centre policy which were set out in the Planning White Paper *Planning for a Sustainable Future* (HM Government, May 2007).

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2. The consultation will run for twelve weeks and end on 3 October 2008. A final revised Planning Policy Statement is expected to be published in early 2009, together with supporting practice guidance.
3. Consultation on the Hucknall Town Centre Masterplan takes place on the Big Red Bus at the Market Place on July 11th and 12th.

- Ends -