

Please forward to  
Comm Htee Clerk for  
reference re Impact  
into town centres.

Neyland Pharmacy  
94 High Street  
Neyland  
Milford Haven  
SA73 1TF  
25.07.11

Mr Andrew RT Davies AM  
4 Penlline Road  
Whitchurch  
Cardiff  
CF14 2XS

Dear Mr Davies

Ref - Enterprise and Business Committee

I am delighted that, you as Chairman of the Assembly's Enterprise and Business Committee, will be looking at the impact of large retail parks. May I urge the Committee to take a close look at the effect of the large supermarkets in Pembroke Dock and Haverfordwest, in Pembrokeshire and compare and contrast those blighted towns, to Narberth?

Tesco in Pembroke Dock and Haverfordwest have created 'economic ethnic cleansing'. They have wiped out the primary and secondary retailers in those areas, so that the only businesses that can now trade are niche 'pound' and charity shops. They have made butchers, grocers and clothes shops unsustainable. As the subsequent footfall in town centres has collapsed, the 'secondary' retailers, the small cafes, niche clothes retailers are unable to survive. I might add here that this collapse in trade, in my view has also been compounded by Pembrokeshire County Council's parking policy.

Compare and contrast that stark economic landscape in Haverfordwest and Pembroke Dock with Narberth. No large supermarkets exist in Narberth. No Tesco. Subsequently, the smaller 'primary' food traders, the butchers and grocers can prosper. Then the secondary retailers can work – the niche clothes shops, jewellers and Surf shops and then finally the tertiary retailers – the nice cafes and chocolate shops. The whole retail system is like a coral system, all interacting and feeding off each other. All relying on each other to create an environment that is conducive to retail.

There are two solutions that perhaps the Welsh Government and your Committee may want to consider. The first, is to educate the Local Government Officials on how to cultivate and look after the retailing 'ecosystem'. They need to look at town centres in the same light as any natural ecosystem. Local Government need to understand that it is the tax, that these small businesses produce, that pay for local Government Expenditure.

Secondly, there needs to be a formula on the trading size of a retail business that are allowed in any particular area. So for example, if the average square foot of a retail business is 2000 sq feet, then a multi national retailer must keep to a set percentage of that figure. A percentage figure that should be decided by the Welsh Government. So perhaps the maximum area that Tesco or any other supermarket chain could operate in is 2-3000 sq.feet

Finally although I suggested some solutions I do not know how the Committee or Welsh Government are going to improve the situation without ejecting the large Supermarkets from these areas?

The horse has bolted. They are in there and it will be impossible to get them out. Also remember Tesco do not pay UK Corporation Tax!!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jon David', written in a cursive style.

Jon David MRPharmS MPhC Bsc (Hons)

CC. Angela Burns AM  
Paul Davies AM  
Suzy Davies AM