

A CALL TO ARMS
OUR TOWN CENTRE IS DYING

Dear

DATE

Shops and restaurants in our High Barnet High Street are closing every month, and vacant premises continue to remain unoccupied for long periods.

There are a number of reasons for this, including the rise of internet shopping; the lack of a full recovery from the recession; high rents and business rates.

While these are all out of our control, practically everyone who lives or works here agrees that one of the main contributors to the decline of our beloved town centre is a local matter that we have some influence over.

This is:

**THE PERNICIOUS AND RESTRICTIVE PARKING REGIME THAT HIGH BARNET IS CURRENTLY
SUBJECTED TO**

Discussions regarding parking restrictions have been continuing with Barnet Council for some years, to no avail apart from some minor concessions that have had little or no effect on the rapidly deteriorating situation.

SOMETHING MUST DONE

WE ASK FOR JUST TWO SIMPLE THINGS

1. One hour's free parking from Monday to Saturday in all parking spaces along the High Street, and all *three* Council Car Parks in the high Barnet area.
2. Clear, easily readable, accessible signage explaining this, and making it clear that where meters operate in these areas they will issue a ticket for a free sixty-minute period and that in other parking bays there is no need to register by phone to make use of this concession.

Throughout the country, and encouraged by the Government, councils are taking the long term view, and reducing parking restrictions in order to help to save their high streets.

WHY SHOULD BARNET COUNCIL BE ANY DIFFERENT?

THE TIME FOR ACTION IS NOW

We attach a detailed memorandum explaining our standpoint, and look forward to hearing from you shortly regarding this most urgent issue.

Yours sincerely

Nick Jones
Chair

Gail Laser
Vice-Chair

Jon Supran
Honorary Secretary

The Barnet Society
