

## **Leegate**

Lee Green Assembly supports the Leegate Working Group's Position Paper of July 2012, highlighting the issues and concerns for local residents about the proposed redevelopment of Leegate.

These are, in particular:

- The overwhelming scale of the proposed superstore, leading to the loss of much-valued public space in the shape of the passageway and reduction in the size of the square.
- The failure to include a meaningful amount of housing.
- The traffic impact of a second superstore (alongside Sainsbury's) at Lee Green crossroads.
- The failure to devise a comprehensive scheme for the whole site with the result that the most prominent feature, the corner office/retail block will remain (though with a modern cladding).

While welcoming firm proposals for the redevelopment of the shopping centre, we note that it has been allowed to deteriorate for the last 20 years, and has been cited as "one of the worst centres in the country", a situation not made any better by continued delays in the development proposals.

We regret the lack of progress made during discussions with St Modwen, and are extremely disappointed in the repeated delays in meetings, particularly the most recent one scheduled with Asda themselves.

We are also disappointed in reports that residents and traders have not been kept informed of developments. This has led to anxiety in particular among residential tenants who stand to lose their homes as a result of the development.

In this context, we note St Modwen's declared commitment to community participation, affordable opportunities for local traders and community initiatives, and that these should be reflected in getting a deal for Leegate that best reflects local residents' needs and aspirations.

We therefore empower the Working Group to take whatever actions are necessary within reasonable means to promote and win support for the Assembly's view across Lee Green ward and in the wider catchment area.

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