



Bristol Food Policy Council

To: Members of Development
Control (North) Committee
Councillor Blythe (LD)
Councillor Doubell (LD)
Councillor Comer (LD)
Councillor Clark (LD)
Councillor Breckles (L)
Councillor Clark (L)
Colin Smith (L)
Councillor Alexander (C)
Councillor Windows (C)
Councillor Tess Green (G)

From: Professor Kevin Morgan
Chair, Bristol Food Policy Council

lucy.fleming@bristol.gov.uk

Date: Monday 14 January 2013
Ref: 12/02090/F

Dear Councillor

**PROPOSED 11,838 SQ M SAINSBURY'S SUPERSTORE (9,346 SQ M GROSS/4,851 SQ M NET) WITH 572 CAR PARKING SPACES, 47 CYCLE SPACES, 65 DWELLINGS AND 380 SQ M COMMUNITY/COMMERCIAL FLOORSPEACE (12/02090/F)
MEMORIAL STADIUM, FILTON AVENUE, BRISTOL BS7 0AQ**

The Bristol Food Policy Council was established in March 2010 in response to the findings of a research report entitled 'Who Feeds Bristol – towards a resilient food plan' which was prepared by food systems researcher Joy Carey and commissioned by NHS Bristol and Bristol City Council. The evidence in this report, together with:

- Findings from Bristol City Council's High Street Enquiry Day and subsequent recommendations by the Sustainable Development and Transport Scrutiny Commission, Nov 2010/Feb 2011, on the impact of multiple food retail businesses.
- The work of the Portas review and the successful application for pilot funding also reinforces these findings.

Highlights the importance of the independent sector food businesses to the vitality of the local economy, and to the resilience of our future food system in the face of threats from economic recession, climate change and depletion of natural resources.

The Food Policy Council has considered the evidence relating to the food retail patterns across the Bristol City Region, including schemes where supermarkets have

had positive impacts, for example, as with the case of the regeneration of Symes Av. in Hartcliffe. The conclusion of the Food Policy Council is; the vitality of Bristol's high streets and local centres, and the survival of the entire independent sector for food production, is highly vulnerable to further growth in market share by the 'Big Four' multiple retail chains. The adverse impacts that will be caused by a further new superstore include loss of local jobs not only in retail but also in production, processing, wholesale, catering and distribution.

The recommendation of the Food Policy Council is that the above planning application be refused on the grounds of;

Significant adverse impact on resilience and market diversity of the regional food system serving Bristol, with significant adverse impact on local economy and local employment

Around one in every ten jobs in the West of England is related to food and drink. (Annual Business Inquiry, Office for National Statistics). Maintaining these local jobs depends on safeguarding market diversity and market resilience, where independent businesses have a chance of thriving. This is under serious threat due to a trend away from market diversity and balanced competition to one of consolidation and monopoly. In 2004 in the West of England the 'big four' (Sainsbury's, Tesco, Morrisons and Asda) owned 19 stores, and by 2010 this had risen to 76 (BBC Panorama, Growth of the Big Four'). At the time of writing the Who Feeds Bristol report there were approximately 180 independent food shops left in Bristol, owned by 140 businesses. In 2009 the UK Competition Commission urged the Government to introduce tighter planning rules, yet all the 'big four' continue to plan for strategic expansion.

The Food Policy Council endorses the estimates made by NHS Bristol that there will be a net loss of at least 133 – 197 retail jobs (350 new jobs at the Sainsbury's superstore will be balanced by the loss of between 483 and 547 retail jobs elsewhere). The Food Policy Council view is that this is a conservative estimate, as it assumes that there will be no loss of jobs in production, wholesale or distribution.

We note also that the City Council's Economy, Enterprise and Inclusion Team object to the proposal because of the adverse impact on local businesses and employment.

Overall this proposal will have a negative impact on local employment and on the future resilience of the City Region's food system.

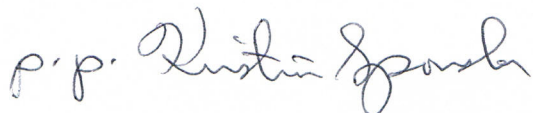
In our view it is untenable to argue that benefits from a new Sports Stadium can possibly justify the degree of damage that will be caused to the local economy and to the regional food system. The evidence contained in the Who Feeds Bristol report, and in the Bristol report on Peak Oil (Osborn S. Building a Positive Future for Bristol after Peak Oil' 2009 Bristol Local Strategic Partnership) refute this assertion.

There are other options for how the Memorial Ground could be beneficially redeveloped. There is no concrete evidence that attendance levels for the football and rugby are constrained solely by stadium size, or that a larger stadium will

guarantee economic success for the sports clubs in the face of global economic shocks and the impacts of fossil fuel depletion (UK Industry Peak Oil Taskforce 'The Oil Crunch; Securing the UK's Energy Future' February 2010).

Yours sincerely

Professor Kevin Morgan
Chair
Bristol Food Policy Council

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'P.P. Austin Jones', written in dark ink.