



Rodbourne Cheney,
Swindon
Wilts

Tel No

08 March 2009

Dear Mr Starling

Re- Street Trading Policy, ongoing changes

Regarding your recent letter dated 03 March 2009. We would like to thank you for inviting us to comment on the ongoing changes that may possibly occur later this year. We are not quite sure what is being suggested by the statement "Street Trading policy points in a different direction from planning policy, and the regeneration strategy" as it appears from meetings that we have attended that there is at present no clear and definitive objective that points a way forward whereby people won't be losing their livelihoods for the sake of an ambition that may or may not be realised. We believe that trading sites, should only be closed when regeneration actually is about to begin in those areas. It is simply unfair just to prohibit areas, for absolutely no valid reason and no indication of when any work will proceed.

I really don't feel that Swindon Street Traders deserve the same fate as those traders who were unscrupulously discharged from their trading sites in the tented market, and thereafter having the stress of having to re-establish their business's elsewhere, only to be invited back two years later, as all plans fell by the wayside leaving a redundant site, and many people angry and perplexed. With that in mind I hope every one who is involved in this policy making considers that we are in times when we should be creating jobs, not taking them away from people when it is not necessary, our business does well, so we are

obviously meeting a need that Swindon people want. Otherwise our business would have gone under. The government states that small businesses should be supported, does that not apply in Swindon.

Every time we get one of these letters we feel that there is a hidden agenda that creates uncertainty. We don't feel that you can use the word "fair", when in your letter you state that it is your intention too prohibit Street Trading in Edgeware Road. As you are well aware we conduct our business from this site, and we have only been informed of this as from the 03 March 2009. There has never been any complaint regarding our unit trading from Edgeware Road, there is no planned immediate development, and it has planning etc, need I continue. I must only assume that the reason again for this new development is due to the hypothesis that some day in years to come re-development may start in this area. Stating that these particular areas are just being prohibited, yet no other plans and no reasons why have been divulged that bear any certainty, we feel is unacceptable. We have spent a lot of time and money building up a business here that Swindon Town Council wanted and encouraged.

You also state in your letter that not all traders will be allocated new pitches, and further to that the new pitches will involve Street Traders being sent off to remote areas on the outskirts of the town, with very little foot flow, and no discussions on regeneration of these areas. I think that speaks for itself really.

We feel that change is inevitable, and we are more than happy to work alongside the council, but respect works both ways, at this present moment we are constantly receiving letters whereby goal posts are being changed, and nobody appears to be stating when this regeneration will be taking place and in what parts of the Town it will be occurring. It is our opinion that these policies should not be cast in stone, because it appears that every time a direction is stated, the consequences are revealed whereby Street Traders always loose out. I am really disappointed In Swindon Town Council, we have always had very good working relationships with all involved in the 12 years that we have traded, it is very difficult to stay positive and optimistic, when we really don't appear to be making ourselves heard. These are very difficult times already, and we feel that the promises

made regarding the kiosks and supporting us move onwards with our business do not seem to be in the plans regarding regeneration of this Town.

We do not agree with this proposal, and we feel that to ask us for our thoughts regarding your proposal too close Edgeware Road is extremely insensitive. We are very concerned with our futures being left in the hands of people who are not looking at the bigger picture, or considering the facts that we personally will be left with no way to support our family or pay our bills if we loose our site. We also feel that the people involved in this regeneration need to make clear their objectives, when and where the development without any doubt will proceed.

Yours Sincerely

Mr & Mrs Brett.