

## **THISTLEBERRY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

### **Response to Inspector's Queries re the Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan**

#### **MATTER 8 – RETAIL AND TOWN CENTRES**

**8.1 (a)** Don't know. That is for the Inspector to decide.

**(b)** Don't know. Currently the town boundary of Newcastle is defined by its ring road - an almost impermeable barrier. Access to the town centre is via dark, dirty, somewhat threatening underpasses. There is a second ring of supermarkets on the opposite side of this road. People appear to choose one or the other. The supermarkets are preferred because parking is free.

**(c )** Don't know.

**(d)** Don't know.

**(e )** Don't know. Most of the Plan is taken on trust that it will deliver what it claims. Over the past 15 years this appears not to have been the case. It is perhaps only via implementation and independent assessment that effectiveness might be judged. Since 2019 a distinct downturn in the town centre and market has been noted by residents who claim that they no longer/will not use the town centre. Many of the chain stores have also left, and independent stores do not always survive.

Dr A Drakakis-Smith

Chair

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