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From:

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Sent:

07 February 2007 21:58

To:

Scrutiny

Cc:

Chamber of Commerce

Subject: Would You Like a New Supermarket in St Peter

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7 February 2007

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to the Jersey Evening Post dated Wednesday 7 February 2007 and your advert regarding a proposed new supermarket in St Peter, I wish to make the following comments:-

Do you really think the future lies with large English Plcs - whether it be Tesco's, Asda, or Sainsbury's etc?

Jersey still has, or be it not as it was, a special and unique way of life. I think that this revolves around local businesses looking after the Island. When a large corporate is introduced into the system it may bring more competitive pricing, however at what cost? Does the Panel believe that England is a role model? I don't. Why are our politicians hell-bent in trying to turn Jersey into another English town? Visitors and Jersey people like Jersey's individualism. This would be completely lost if some of our Politicians were to have their way and introduce yet more retail outlets.

What do English PIcs contribute financially to the Island? They are exempt of tax. Many of their staff are hand-picked from the U.K., travelling back and forth from the U.K. taking their salaries back to the U.K. to spend. Cosmetically our High Street could be any market town in the U.K. At the moment it has not been totally ruined but it is on its way. How has Guernsey managed to retain its character?

We are well used to paying over the top for most things – electricity, water, gas, telephone, public transport, oil, property rental, hourly rates for tradesmen, air and sea travel, commercial freight you name it. These examples are not controlled or competition vigorously encouraged so why is the onus always on the local retailers?

Wherever these giants have appeared it has brought disaster to local retailers.

Thank you for allowing the public to have their say.

Yours faithfully

STEPHEN ARTHURS