



**ROBERT NEILL MP**

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**The Porcupine public house – Update**

LiDL's proposed demolition of the Porcupine pub in Mottingham continues to provoke a great deal of anger from local residents and businesses. I wanted to provide you with an update on the latest news regarding this site, along with some practical advice on what you can do to help save this building and see it reopened as a vibrant community pub under new management.

- I am visiting this site again on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May, 10.30 - 11.15am**, with the Minister for Pubs, Brandon Lewis MP, local Councillors, and representatives from the 'Save the Porcupine' campaign group. It would be fantastic if as many residents as possible can join us at this rally. This will help us send a clear signal to LiDL that their proposals are deeply unpopular and that this site is wholly unsuitable for a non-descript supermarket.
- I have secured a Parliamentary debate on 21<sup>st</sup> May regarding the Porcupine pub. This gives us a chance to place on public record our serious misgivings about the manner in which Enterprise Inns and LiDL have handled this entire case. If people have any material on the pub's history – including personal reflections on why it has been an important community asset – I would be incredibly grateful if you could send these to me, and I will try and include these in my speech: [bob.neill.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:bob.neill.mp@parliament.uk)
- Please continue making representations to Bromley Council's planning department by email to [planning@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:planning@bromley.gov.uk) or by writing to the Planning Department at The Civic Centre. It is crucial that we demonstrate significant local opposition to the demolition. In particular, it is important that residents call on the Council to register the Porcupine building as an Asset of Community Value and impose an Article 4 direction on the land. The latter measure would make it significantly harder for LiDL to proceed with demolition, as it would require the company to obtain full planning permission before it unleashes the wrecking ball. An application for consent would require consultation with the local community and give you a proper say in what happens.

Throughout this process, LiDL have adopted a heavy-handed and dismissive attitude towards our local community and I have been shocked at how secretive its entire operation is. I am aware of several pub operating companies actively looking to purchase sites in South East London, so I will continue calling on LiDL's management to actively consider selling this site to someone who will put the interests of our community ahead of profit margins.

It has been great to see such strong and passionate support for the retention of one of Mottingham's remaining community assets and I hope to see many of you at next Tuesday's rally.

**Bob Neill MP**