

Dear Postbag,

Gosport's new chief executive is absolutely right when he says the town should not try to compete with Fareham, but build on its strengths - the town's independent stores. These mark Gosport and Lee out from other towns that have the usual chain stores.

However, too many independent stores have been lost from the High Street in Gosport and Lee, Stoke Road and Forton Road-Brockhurst Road are now far more interesting places to shop.

The stores that still exist need our support (the car parking charges are a mistake) and I would like to see more promotion of Stoke Road, etc.

I expect most Gosport people could say exactly what stores trade on Newgate Lane. They have probably sat in enough traffic queues on Newgate Lane to memorise every one. But do people know the wide range of shops in these other areas?

Rather than Gosport Borough Council spending money on light sticks (one of the latest ideas for Gosport High Street), I'd like to see some money put into making those shopping areas look more attractive and into leaflets promoting these shopping facilities to local residents.

Andrea Claire Smith

Press officer

South East Hants Green Party