

Sir Stuart Rose  
Chairman  
Marks & Spencer Ltd  
35 North Wharf house  
London W2 1NW

Dear Sir Stuart

I have been asked to write to you as secretary of Bromley Friends of the Earth and on behalf of the many local residents concerned by your announcement that your store at Biggin Hill is likely to close.

Although part of the London Borough of Bromley, Biggin Hill is very much a community that is divorced from the rest of the borough. Thus, the loss of your store will mean that residents will have to drive 20 to 30 minutes to reach other shopping facilities.

This will inconvenience a large number of people and add to road congestion and air and noise pollution. There will also be an economic effect through job losses, money leaving the area etc. It may also lead to loss of business for your company as people shop elsewhere.

We fully understand the commercial imperatives behind your announcement but we appeal to you to:

1. Relieve the Biggin Hill store for one year to allow a campaign to ensure that residents fully understand that it is necessary to 'use it or lose it'. Other local businesses would support such a drive.
2. Consult store staff to discover what cost savings could be made.
3. Use the year to research thoroughly the selection of goods carried in the store.

Finally, this store has made itself an integral part of the 'small town' atmosphere of Biggin Hill. Its loss would add to the economic decline of the locality. Please reconsider!

I very much look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully

Ray Watson, secretary, Bromley Friends of the Earth