

10/1/2013.

## Retail Experience Scrutiny review Northampton town centre.

Northampton town centre has obviously deteriorated during the last two decades. One can easily blame many causes as follows

1. Car parking the annual income has reduced by £89,000 over the last three years implying that the number of people using the town centre has fallen, indicating that possibly charges are too high.
2. The large number of empty premises provide no attraction
3. Over provision of Bookmakers, Pawnbrokers will not attract either tourist or shopper.
4. Lack of premier businesses we have lost far too many first class outlets in recent years.
5. Lack of residents in the town many thousands were lost in the clearing of the Mounts, Lady's Lane, Barliff Street areas etc.
6. Empty offices in abundance indicate lack of workers in town centre.
7. The immediate approaches to town centre i.e. Kettering Road, Barrack Road etc are a disgrace certainly no enticement for any visitor or shopper.
8. The Market alas! once the pride of Northampton town centre, now a shadow of its former glory.

In conclusion a complete rethink to the retail shopping experience in Northampton is needed. The proposed extension to the Grosvenor Centre will not itself be the elixir to solve the problem. It is emphasised that to attract custom Northampton needs a unique new outlook in its format, something other neighbouring towns do not have, we need class once again. Why not capitalise on the growing interest in the Arts, Music and learning, become a centre of culture for everyone's taste.

Jony Mallard.

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of Associations.