

STAMFORD CHAMBER *of* TRADE *and* COMMERCE

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PRESS RELEASE

MORRISONS PLANNING CONSENT OVERTURNED

Our Chamber welcomes the decision by Mr Justice Collins to quash the planning permission approved by South Kesteven's Development Control Committee in July 2008 for the creation of a retail park on part of the former Blackstone site by Wm. Morrison Supermarkets plc.

Mr Justice Collins is a judge very experienced in dealing with town and country planning issues, including those involving retail development proposals. Thus he readily understood, appreciated and supported our Chamber's concerns.

It is clear that the Judge has firmly supported the Chamber's view that the amount of retail floor space approved by South Kesteven District council for the site would harm the vitality and viability of Stamford town centre.

Within the Judgement are comments which appear to cast shadows upon the competence of the Planning Officer and the Chairman of the Committee to whom final determination of the planning application was delegated. If this is the case, it is very disturbing.

South Kesteven district Council should not be in any hurry to re-determine this application. Things have changed. A new, in-depth Retail Needs Assessment for Stamford should be commissioned by South Kesteven District council, to replace the 2006 Assessment. Highway considerations have also changed and Lincolnshire Highways needs to reconsider it once supportive stance.

For further information contact Tim Lee on 01780 482440, email president@stamfordchamber.co.uk

Stamford: The Finest Stone Town in England