

Mr. Edwyn Hewitt (M/Director)

Shearer Kitchens

30/32 Peters Hill

Belfast BT13 2AA

1 December 2006

Dear Sir/Madam,

I recently received a copy of the GVA GRIMLEY report on Belfast City Centre NW Quarter Part Two, within which area my business is situated. I have a few points to make and questions to ask about the report, and they are as follows:

1. Why were the Peters Hill/Browne Square traders not consulted while this report was being put together-everyone else in the area seems to have been?
2. We have been trading from these premises for nearly 60 years and the core of my customer base is the working class people of North and West Belfast. Our location is well known to these people -word of mouth family recommendations being vital to us. We sell kitchens at prices affordable to ordinary people, but with a personalized sales and after-sales service, which they don't get from the big multiples. Even during the worst of the troubles, both communities shopped here, because Peters Hill was seen as reasonably neutral territory, and this is still the case. My present location is therefore absolutely crucial to the continuing success of my business.
3. My business is profitable and has stood the test of time-it isn't "low grade and marginal" as the report generalizes about the area.
4. I agree with section 10.22 of the report, which states that housing on Peters Hill would not be appropriate as it has the potential to increase polarization (The Marching Season could be more difficult if this were to happen). I also feel that "mixed" housing on the Peters Hill/Brown Square side of the road is not feasible at present. I therefore cannot see why Peters Hill should not remain a retail area in future.

E. J. Hewitt