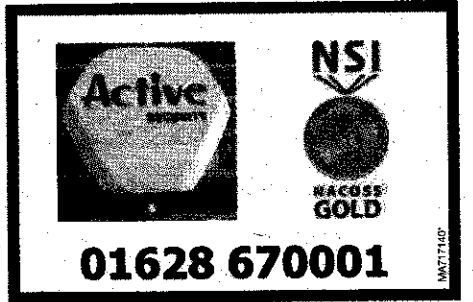


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Thursday, April 26, 2012 60p

The Louis Baylis (Maidenhead Advertiser) Charitable Trust: Celebrating 50 years of funding community causes

Minister urged to hold Tesco inquiry

Royal Borough attempts to block redevelopment of Bishop Centre

GOVERNMENT ministers are being called on in a last-ditch attempt to halt The Bishop Centre development over fears that it will devastate neighbouring towns.

MP Eric Pickles, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, is the only person left with the power to overturn the planning approval of the £20million venture.

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead has asked him to 'call-in'

the decision and force a planning inquiry.

Cllr Christine Bateson, cabinet member for planning and development, said Mr Pickles was the 'last chance saloon'.

The Royal Borough and town chiefs from groups including the Chamber of Commerce fear it will draw business away from Maidenhead as its own regeneration plans come closer to fruition.

Cllr Bateson added: "We are in a position where we are looking forward with the regeneration of Maidenhead and we want to make sure that it is

developed successfully."

Letters have also been written to the Home Secretary, Maidenhead MP Theresa May, asking her to speak to her cabinet colleague about the matter.

One correspondent Bob Dulson, chairman of Maidenhead Civic Society, said: "No one is denying The Bishop Centre is in need of a makeover, but we feel such a mammoth out-of-town retail park would be damaging - especially when the focus now is supposed to be on High Street regeneration."

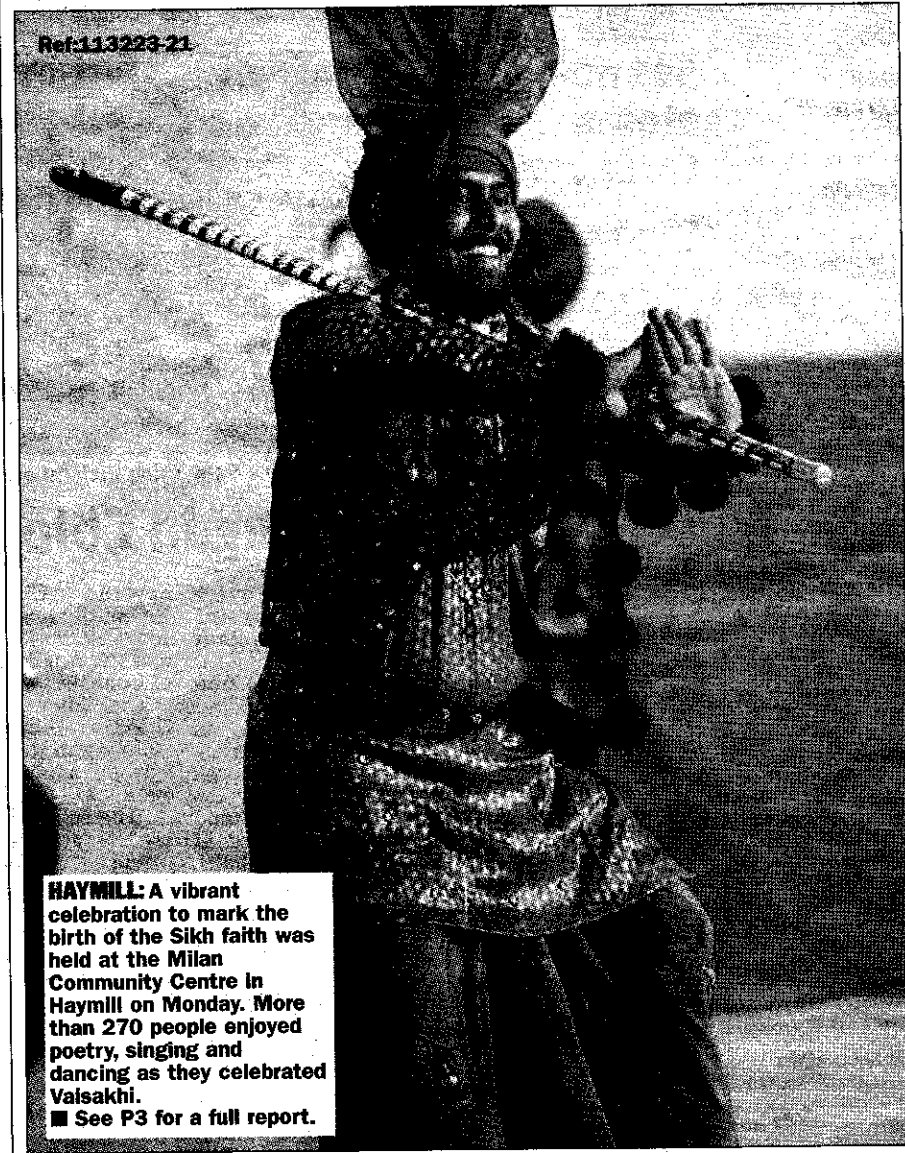
He said South Bucks District Council (SBDC) planning policy was that developments should 'relate to local need' and 'avoid impact on other local centres'.

"This flies in the face of their local planning policy," he added. "The impact on Maidenhead and Slough is quite astonishing."

The multi-million pound plans submitted by Land Securities were given the go-ahead by SBDC in March, despite planning officers recommending refusal. They will see the shopping village in Bath Road bulldozed and replaced with a 55,000 sq ft Tesco and 10 to 12 smaller shops as part of a 131,500 sq ft redevelopment project. It is estimated it would be completed by 2013.

Land Securities declined to comment.

Colourful celebration of faith



Ref:113223-21

HAYMILL: A vibrant celebration to mark the birth of the Sikh faith was held at the Milan Community Centre in Haymill on Monday. More than 270 people enjoyed poetry, singing and dancing as they celebrated Vaisakhi. See P3 for a full report.



Win £50 worth of fuel P32

Indian night picture special See P16-18



Business manager battles pirates P5

Win tickets to Rock The Moor P26

Cashcutters money-off coupons P40

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HOT TOPIC: Neighbouring Maidenhead is determined to block the Bishop Centre plans. Ref:110433-4

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