

BCSC in Northern Ireland



Castle Court, Belfast, Planning Application Submitted

Sustainability

The Northern Ireland Department for Regional Development have set out clear objectives for delivering a strong spatially based economy, a healthy living environment, and an inclusive society through sustainable development. These are all features of BCSC's 2007 programme that include:

- Guidance Notes on energy use in the design of shopping centres, sustainability for the retail sector and green travel plans for staff and shoppers.
- *Focus report on Sustainability* which highlighted the green issues that different sectors of the industry are tackling.
- Publication of *Future Shopping Places* which reviews suggested design techniques for sustainable new retail places and retro-fitting into older schemes.
- Publication of the 2007 edition of *What's in Store Magazine* that is dedicated to sustainability in the built environment and social engagement in the retail industry.
- BCSC is also working with Business in the Community (BITC) on *The Exhibition* - a travelling set of exhibition stands that will be placed in different UK locations to highlight actions taken by individuals, centres and communities to address climate change and promote the importance of sustainable communities.

BCSC is a network of organisations at the heart of the retail property industry. It was established in 1983 to provide a forum for those engaged in retail and shopping centre development and management of all kinds. Since then, BCSC has built up a thriving membership, representative of virtually every aspect of retail property activity including owners, developers, managers, retailers, public sector managers and consultants.

The main objectives of BCSC are:

1. To promote best practice in the development and management of the retail environment,
2. To bring together its members with a common vision through exchanges of information,
3. To use this information to meet the professional and commercial aims of the retail property industry as its centre of excellence.

In 2007, BCSC will be focusing on social engagement through retail-led regeneration in policy areas such as **crime, education, communities, sustainability and planning**. These priorities are also congruent with Government objectives for retail planning and issues identified by the **Northern Ireland Department for Regional Development**.

In 2005 BCSC held their annual Conference and Retail Showcase in Belfast, contributing £3million to the city's economy over the four day event and attracting long term investment from the 70 retailers and developers and thousands of delegates who attended.

The conference was sponsored by CUSP, Northern Ireland's leading urban regeneration specialists, who are currently undertaking the large scale redevelopment of the Cathedral Quarter in Belfast.

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Education

- **Training:** BCSC is committed to a professional standard of training for shopping centre managers. In 2007 BCSC will continue to develop a practical level 2 retailing course for 16-19 year olds and returners to work; a mentor scheme for local planning officers with City Academy Bristol and accredited customer care trainers to implement professional training programmes.
- **Research:** BCSC undertakes research in a number of areas which are of interest to its broad membership base, producing several publications that have made a valuable contribution to wider debates about the retail industry. BCSC are currently producing a series of reports on *The Future of Retail Property* that have looked into issues such as internet retailing, in town and out of town shopping and the future design of shopping centres as public spaces.
- **Best Practice:** The BCSC Gold Awards are the leading awards within the shopping centre and retail destination industry. They not only reward excellence in retail-led developments in the UK and Ireland but also recognise projects that generate improvements in the quality of the built environment and also reward stores and operations within that environment. Other awards include the ACE awards which recognise good practice in customer care and the Town Centre Environment Awards which showcase well managed and developed new urban spaces.



Victoria Square, Belfast, Opening 2008

Communities

- The theme of the 2006 BCSC Conference & Showcase was partnership - between owners and occupiers, investors and developers, and the public and private sector that are at the heart of retail development.
- The Northern Ireland Region of Shopping Centres (NIRSC) is the recognised body liaising with BCSC that represents all shopping centres and associated utility suppliers in Northern Ireland. The NIRSC also has strong links with their Southern counterparts and the Irish Region of the Association of Shopping Centre Managers. This regional organisation is vital for BCSC to be able to identify issues specific to retail development in Northern Ireland such as changing demographics and consumer patterns, security issues and legislative and legal changes relating to the Devolved Assembly.

Crime

- BCSC has been working with the Association of Town Centre Management (ATCM) looking at ways to reduce anti-social behaviour and criminal activity in town centres and retail outlets. BCSC has also produced guidance to members on Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and drug related issues and will continue working with their members to keep them informed on Government policy in this area.