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# HARROW TIMES

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**Talented teen performs at famous jazz club**

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## 'It's a kick in the teeth for traders'

by ANNA SLATER  
aslater@london.newsquest.co.uk

Traders in North Harrow are "fuming" after all hopes of getting a supermarket to move into a disused block were dashed.

The former Safeway store, in Pinner Road, North Harrow, was closed in 2004 and was initially due to be replaced by another supermarket to help regenerate the area's declining trade.

But in 2005, Genesis Housing bought the empty store as well as Megabowl, the bowling alley located above it.

The company built 112 social housing flats, but a portion of the site, which neighbouring traders believed was due to be used to house a new supermarket, was left vacant.

On Tuesday, Genesis Housing submitted a new planning application to sub-divide the remaining empty space.

Councillor James Bond, (North Harrow, Independent), expressed concerns that Genesis did not advertise the site for use as a supermarket.

He said: "We have been battling for a supermarket in the area since Safeway closed down."

"I cannot recall on any occasion that Genesis Homes has even gone to the trouble of advertising the vacant space, because I have never seen any To Let signs along the frontage in Pinner Road in all the eight years that this site has been unoccupied."

"If the council accepts the planning request to sub-divide the space, it would remove any last chance to gain a supermarket in the area."

Gareth Thomas, Labour MP for Harrow West, added: "North Harrow took a massive blow when it missed out on funding from the Mayor's Outer London Fund, so a supermarket like Iceland or Co-op would really help galvanize North Harrow."



■ North Harrow traders are 'fuming' after Genesis Housing submitted plans to turn the former Safeway store site in Pinner Road into housing, rather than a supermarket  
Picture NL29389

"But it's taken so long to sort out the lease issues regarding the former Safeway site, I hope the moment hasn't passed."

Ash Thakrar, manager of beauty salon Lavish Looks, in Station Road, said: "Times in North Harrow are tough and it's becoming somewhat of a ghost town. I'm fuming. It's really a kick in the teeth to us. I fear for the future of my business."

Lisa Bennett, practice manager at Hiller Opticians, Pinner Road, said: "I never get through a day at work without hearing someone complain about the lack of a supermarket. Many of our patients here are elderly and it's unfair to make them travel far to buy food. The whole area is deteriorating and it feels like Genesis doesn't care

— they've completely washed their hands of us."

A statement from Genesis said: "After Safeway left the area, we were contracted by Megabowl to develop the retail units to their specification, as they would have been speaking to any potential purchasers and we were only building it as the contractor. As we did not own the site, we would not have promised anyone that a supermarket would be built."

"Our planning application does include the option for three retail units, but that does not exclude the option of one larger unit."

"Once the council makes a decision about this planning application, we can approach all interested parties."

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# Talented teen plays at famous jazz club

by ANNA SLATER  
aslater@london.newsquest.co.uk

A talented teen from a Kingsbury school "wowed" his music teacher when he won the chance to perform at one of the world's most famous jazz clubs.

Luke Snow, who is studying for his GCSEs at Kingsbury High School, in Princes Avenue, played the saxophone at Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club, in Frith Street, London, as part of Big Band Day.

The scheme gives young Londoners the opportunity to be mentored by Ronnie Scott's Jazz Orchestra and perform on stage with the ensemble.

Dozens of people visited the club for the event last Sunday.

Luke, 16, who plays Grade 8 piano and saxophone and taught himself to play the harmonica, said he did not expect to get such a "rush" from the experience.

He said: "I first fell in love with jazz when I was around six and had my first piano lesson.

"My music teacher knows I love jazz, so suggested I applied to take part in this scheme. I had to fill out a long application form and when I found out I'd been successful, I was really excited.

"When I first got to the venue and saw how big it was, I was slightly overwhelmed, but the minute I started playing my saxophone, I got the biggest rush."

He also decided on the spur of the moment, to play a solo on his harmonica.

Luke added: "My dad gave me a harmonica for Christmas, but I hadn't had the chance to play it yet. I thought there was no time like the present and decided to do a solo there and then. I have no idea what I was thinking, but it went down really well and felt amazing."

His music teacher Matthew Damine, said: "I knew



■ Luke Snow played at Ronnie Scott's

Luke was good, but was so impressed when I saw him perform on Sunday.

"I had no idea he could play the harmonica and was really wowed by it. He's one of my top students and will go far with it."

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