

To the Editor,

Having read the letter in your paper last week about Tooting Town Centre 'Do we really want pound shops and three Lidl's?', I have to say that I agree with nearly everything that the local resident wrote. Given the worldwide economic conditions and the seeming increase of large shopping centres, high streets have suffered across the country and I think we have to recognise that it's going to be difficult to turn Tooting town centre around.

However, by making the area clean and tidy we can make Tooting more attractive to business. Having grown up in Tooting it saddens me to see it as it is, untidy, with shops closing down and something needs to be done. I often meet local retailers and businesses as well as local residents to discuss how we can improve the heart of [our](#) community.

I have been in regular touch with local Councillors and Wandsworth Council about this over the last year and have taken direct action myself to 'Tidy Up Tooting', cleaning streets and alleyways with local residents and [Councillors](#) and the 'Tidy Up Tooting' Group.

In response to the campaign, Wandsworth Council have now launched Tooting Together – a new campaign to clean up Tooting town centre and hopefully attract new businesses to the high street. I know Tooting and the people and businesses of Tooting. I am confident our Town Centre can and will be turned around.

Yours Sincerely,

Sadiq Khan MP