

## BARGATES—SHOPPING CENTRE OF THE FUTURE *Link With High Street Suggested*

C.T. September 16, 1955

**LINK-UP of Bargates and High Street, Christchurch, was advocated this week by a past president of the Christchurch Chamber of Trade, Mr. H. E. Ford.**

**High Street, he considered, should be re-numbered to extend from Castle Street to Stour Road.**

Bargates traders, canvassed by the C.T., however, were found to be indifferent towards the suggestion. But, they considered their area was definitely the shopping centre of the future for the town.

Suggestion was made by Mr. Ford at a meeting of the Christchurch Chamber of Trade on Monday. Members afterwards turned down the proposal that the Council should be asked to take such action by 14 votes to four.

Speaking of Bargates as a rapidly developing shopping centre of its own—"a move that some of us do not want to see"—Mr. Ford said he hoped to be able to organise a petition among traders and residents in the Bargates area backing his proposal. He pointed out that in High Street itself the present system of numbering was confusing. With the name Bargates there was a tendency to confuse visitors to the town.

### MORE PROGRESSIVE.

"As far as antiquity is concerned," he added, "I feel it is high time some of that was lost in the Borough. Let us be a little more progressive."

Support for the proposal came at the meeting from Mr. W. E. Goodenough, who said the Pit Site roundabout had revealed a new shopping centre for Christchurch.

Against the move, however, were Mr. J. F. H. Smith and Coun. J. Vaughan, who urged that the tradition of the area should be retained, and Mr. R. A. Newbury, a member of the Bargates business community, who pointed out the expense that would be involved with, apparently, nothing to be gained.

Possibility of the change bringing the Bargates traders into a higher valuation class was also mentioned, though it was pointed out that valuations were apparently determined according to the proximity of a business to the Town Hall.

### CONTINUE TO EXPAND.

General opinion among Bargates traders when interviewed this week was that their area was a growing trading community and would continue to expand whether the name was changed or not.

Practically all felt that in any case the proposal was premature. Nothing could really be established until it was seen how the proposed by-pass affected the area.

One point mentioned in favour of the proposal came from the present President of the Chamber of Trade, Mr. R. A. Hayball. If the name was changed, he considered, more businesses would certainly be attracted to the area.