

# Maghull Town Council

6, DAMFIELD LANE, MAGHULL, LIVERPOOL L31 7BA

Our Ref. WHE/JMJ  
Your Ref.

cc Questions  
W. H. Easton  
Clerk and Treasurer  
to the Council  
Telephone: 051-526-3705

2nd February 1981

To the Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,  
Prime Minister  
10, Downing Street,  
LONDON.

Dear Prime Minister,

Announced Closure of the Tate & Lyle Sugar Refinery, Liverpool

Along with the majority of residents and organisations on Merseyside, where the acceleration in the levels of unemployment far exceed the general, unacceptable levels of unemployment in the Country as a whole, and, apart from Northern Ireland, is probably the worst black-spot in the Country, my Council strongly deplore the recent announcement by Lord Jellicoe that Tate & Lyle are to close their Refinery in Liverpool, with the loss, directly, of over 1,500 jobs, with the repercussive effect, possibly of worsening unemployment by as many as 6,000 jobs in the area.

Several hundred Maghull residents are affected by this distressing decision, which is a further hammer blow to the economic prospects of Merseyside, and an immediate personal blow to those unfortunate people involved, along with their families.

With unemployment here at nearly 16%, the closure of the Refinery will push the total up to around 17%/18%, which gives little hope for those thrown out of work, and those already unemployed, of ever re-establishing themselves in gainful and self-respecting employment.

As a humane and caring person, as well as the first Minister in the land concerned about the welfare of the people, you did use your influence and good offices in an endeavour to prevent the close-down of the Bowater Mill at Ellesmere Port, but unfortunately, the Management did not feel it could respond appropriately.

At a meeting of my Council on Wednesday, 28th January 1981, I was asked to write to you personally to enlist your help in endeavouring to prevent the closure of this Refinery, and the devastating effect it will have on the lives of people in the area, its general prosperity, and also the Mersey Docks.

Without the need for anyone to remind you, you will also be aware of the adverse effect closure would have on Third World countries supplying the Sugar Cane.

Could your Minister of Agriculture make appropriate representation with the E.E.C., to bring about an adjustment in the Agricultural Policy, which discriminates against Cane Sugar, and which we understand is the basic reason that has brought about the closure.

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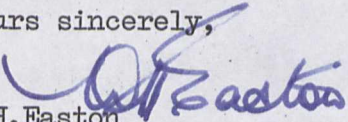
If such a move would take time, perhaps in the interregnum, arrangements could be made for Government financial aid to be given to the Company, which would enable the Refinery to stay open until the quota of imported cane could be altered to levels which were economically viable.

My Council strongly urge that you do intervene, by asking the Company to reconsider the closure decision until further talks have taken place with your Ministers, that may bring about a solution to the problem.

Perhaps you would be kind enough to let my Council have your observations on their request to you.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely,

  
W.H. Easton  
CLERK TO THE COUNCIL