

## SEPT 2010 - PETITION

On September 11th, the petition to prevent the closure of Middle St was taken to the streets and the general public. The signatures collected would eventually contribute to a 4000-signature petition, which was presented by Cllr Eric Kerry at a full Notts County Council meeting on September 16th.

Service users at Beeston's Middle Street Resource Centre have been campaigning since the early spring to save their centre from Nottinghamshire County Council's cuts. On Saturday, Beeston's shoppers had a chance to express their support for the campaign, when petitioners hit the High Road.

Broxtowe's mayoress Lynda Lally signed up the first well-wisher, and was joined by Middle Street service users and various friends of the Resource Centre, including local councillors, union representatives and church members.

The Middle Street Centre supports over 250 adults who have a variety of mental health difficulties, and also serves the local community with a range of activities. It is one of three in the county that are currently undergoing a consultation period that could result in closure, the others being Rokerfield in Sutton-in-Ashfield and Boundary in Bassetlaw. The County Council believes that the introduction of personal budgets will enable them to save money on these buildings, but service users and their carers are vociferous in their belief that the safe and supportive environment they provide cannot be found elsewhere.

Andrea Bowes, 31, was one of the petitioners, and Middle Street has been helping her cope with a complex post traumatic stress disorder, anxiety and depression for 6 years. "I simply wouldn't be able to do this today if it wasn't for the support I've received from the Resource Centre. Life may become unbearable without it."

And with 1600 signatures collected in 4 hours, it looks as though the wider community wants that support to continue.

More news on this event:

[www.thisisnottingham.co.uk/news/Thousands-sign-petition-closure-Beeston-Resource-Centre/article-2655177-detail/article.html](http://www.thisisnottingham.co.uk/news/Thousands-sign-petition-closure-Beeston-Resource-Centre/article-2655177-detail/article.html)