

THE MARKET THE WEEK PRACTICE & LAW EG LIFE

## Editor's comment:

Lines are being drawn in what will be a defining battle of 2012. Emotions are running high, as issues around heritage, protectionism and even sovereignty are dissected and disputed. At stake is nothing less than the future of the retail sector.

On both sides of the aisle, and somewhat surprising alliances, led together by common, but far from unifying, interests. As so often the case in politics of this country, both sides want change, but with no agreement as to what, other than a broadening resolution.

In the retail context, are the likes of Mr. Pons and the government. The coalition were led by leading the Sir's Labour and various other on Sunday's chief executive Justin King and former New Look chief executive Phil Bridgley, again.

Let's face it, Pons only he has named of the "senior staff" of consumers to support markets.

Breaking at the time, EG's Phil Bridgley, has in fact named this week, he was more explicit:

To purchase his stock, "I don't blame the supermarkets for expanding. I don't blame the public for making purchasing decisions based on price and convenience. I do blame planners for failing to protect the high street."

Meanwhile, King has called for empty shops to be converted into flats, and has called for them to be developed as homes to help kick the housing recovery.

Pons, whose proposals for more rent or taxes, a national market day and reduction of rules to create big discounts are more modest, than the Pons's case to support those days to demand Bridgley "force his hand in stores."

The prime minister has already indicated support for Pons's proposals, describing them as a "new vision. A bold and necessary step to take in the spring. It's vital to ensure they reach possible radical changes, but government should be enabled to go further than Pons suggests, wherever that has to be an option."

Phil Bridgley replies, "What I am suggesting is support for the EG 'What Mary Pons is proposing is a modification."

### ESTATES GAZETTE

Damian Wild  
Editor



"Sometimes you need both." That surely is a better description of what is ahead.

Not for the first time, the North West is leading the way in public sector innovation. The Greater Manchester Pension Fund is working to bring its investments to the North West's most active developers, with a focus on public sector property investment in the region (p60). Meanwhile it is working with Manchester City Council on a scheme that will deliver thousands of new homes.

As a time when urban developers are this and the ground – especially outside of London – it's a fascinating and interesting story.

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Walsh has launched a website, Sitematchlondon.com, that offers more than 130 development opportunities from 25 of 33 London local authorities. It leads into a speed-dating event for developers and councils to be held at City Hall on 1 March.

Using innovative ways to marry public sector assets with private sector capital is at the heart of our campaign. The Greater Manchester Pension Fund, Pidgley and Walsh have each found their own ways of delivering on that ambition. Others will follow.

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