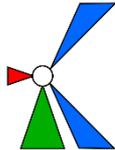


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| <p><508/c></p>  <p>Key: Footprint ConEn1 Footprint ConEn2 Footprint ConEn3</p> | <p>course over the Chancellor's drive to keep the motoring industry on the road to recovery. They could not agree if Mr Lamont had made life easier for the motorist - presently snapping up more new cars than last year - or not. Increases in petrol and road fund duty and initial changes to company car taxation 'will hit the motorist hard', according to Wayne Cocker, sales manager at Ford dealers Trigon in Woodbridge. Welcomed However, to Peugeot dealer Hugh Howlett, of Howlett of Lavenham, the Chancellor has not 'over-done anything'. Most dealers, including Lancaster Garages, which has showrooms in Colchester and Ipswich, welcomed the Chancellor's decision to announce changes to the company car tax system a year in advance. Next year, he has pledged to increase the present company car taxing scales by 8pc, but from 1995 drivers will pay tax according to the manufacturer's list price for each car. Tax will be paid on 35pc of that value, with reductions of as much as two-thirds for high business mileage users. Alan Wiggins, managing director of Carlton Garage, with showrooms in Harwich and Clacton, said this would not adversely affect the average company car user driving a 1.6 Vauxhall Cavalier, but would hit those with more expensive models, thus 'equalising' the market. Mr Wiggins added he would rather have seen road fund duty - raised from £110 to £125 - scrapped and replaced with even more substantial hikes in petrol prices than the 12p a gallon (unleaded) and 15p (leaded) set yesterday. 'Quite pleased' Mr Cocker said the increase in road tax 'had to be expected', although it was 'big when you consider inflation'. Mr Howlett, however, said: 'I was quite pleased. I don't think he has over-done anything.' He had expected a rise in road duty, but was hoping for a clearer differential between diesel and petrol prices. Alan Wiggins, managing director of Vauxhall dealers Carlton of Clacton Sales manager Wayne Cocker, of Ford dealers Trigon, Woodbridge 'Shop jobs would help town' A MAJOR new out-of-town shops project would ease congestion and boost jobs in a depressed seaside town, a developer claimed yesterday. Carter Commercial Developments plans to build a 13-acre centre with a supermarket, 550-space car park and a petrol station in the northern outskirts of Clacton. The company called the public inquiry at Weeley, after Tendring District Council failed to give a decision on the plans in the required time limit. The scheme is earmarked for the north-west of the Highfield Holiday Park and south of the Gorse Lane link road. Tendring District Council believes a decision would be premature as</p> <p>the final version of the district plan</p> <p>- the area's blueprint for future development - is not completed. Roy Vandermeer, representing the company, told planning inspector Michael Culshaw there were many positive reasons why permission should be granted without delay. He argued the congested roads and lack of parking spaces adversely affected the town's all-important tourist industry by putting off visitors. And the company stressed a major attraction was the number of jobs created. 'In a town where unemployment is running at about 20 per cent, the creation of jobs is important in itself,' he said. 'There is an urgent need to provide new shops and new jobs as soon as possible.' Carter Commercial Developments said shoppers in Clacton would</p> |
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benefit from the extra choice. 'The situation in Clacton is woeful,' said Mr Vandermeer. 'Not a single store in Clacton has car parking provided to local authority standards and there are signs of stress even in February.' He said the access would create no problems as [an exit to the new link road had already been negotiated with builders](#). The company also [plans to landscape the site](#) so it would be hardly visible from Clacton and Little Clacton. Andrew Kelly, for Tendring District Council, argued a premature decision could prejudice the future development of the area. The council also claims [the scheme](#) goes against some countryside protection policies. Three other firms have put in [developments](#) for the outskirts of the town, including Brook Park, off the A133, which has been included in the draft local plan. The inquiry, expected to last for four days, continues. Plans heed advice of small traders THE Chancellor has taken heed of small businesses by attempting to boost confidence in his Budget yesterday, says Jim Wellerd of North and Mid-Essex Chamber of Trade. By spreading his proposals over the next three years Norman Lamont sent out the message that he was looking ahead and planning for the future, said Mr Wellerd. He welcomed simplification of VAT rules which will cut compliance costs for companies, but said the rise in petrol prices would hit delivery and distribution costs for firms. 'It is disappointing to see that he heeded the whisky lobby but not the wine merchants who must be very disappointed with the rise,' he said. Roger Baker of the Suffolk Chamber of Commerce said Mr Lamont had successfully struck the balance between balancing the books and sustaining recovery. He also welcomed the forward planning nature of the Budget. 'One thing that industry likes is to be able to foresee the changes in the next few years,' he said. Mr Baker said the main area of concern for over the next few years was 'serious downturn' in the