

NEW "CONVENIENCE" STORE PLANNED

TESCO has put forward plans to build a new convenience store on the land between Springvale Road and Commonsides. The proposal so far has faced serious opposition from neighbours and both owners and employees of local independent business. There are currently over fifty objections filed by the local council, as well as petitions organised by concerned residents.

The area between Walkley and Crookes (where the site rests) is somewhat unique for Sheffield – representing one of few areas as of yet untouched by the business of large corporations. The proposed development not only represents a threat to local business and an increased risk of traffic congestion but also threatens the unique character of this Sheffield suburb. Corporations like TESCO, ASDA and the other superstore giants do not care for social diversity, for community concerns or our local issues. They have one priority and one priority only – profit. Areas like Walkley and Crookes are simply swallowed up and transformed into clones of other British high streets before them – no choice, no diversity.

They also seriously threaten basic social amenities that are essential to any neighbourhood. In October 2002, TESCO bought 870 One Stop, Day & Night or Dillons shops across the UK, almost 1/2 of which contained a sub post office. TESCO is now busily converting these shops into TESCO Express, closing 100 post offices, often in the smallest communities, in the process.

When TESCO has attempted to branch out into community programmes it has proved deeply demeaning to the enduring efforts of well-meaning volunteers. "Community sponsorship" is a much needed luxury for cash-starved charities and enterprises. However, it is always accompanied by the mandatory corporate stamp and logo. The most well-intentioned of projects are automatically converted into yet another



South Eastern face of proposed TESCO store

opportunity for a PR exercise for the superstore giant

TESCO's is not a responsible or ethical employer. It has repeatedly been exposed for its poor environmental record and its stores (in a study by Sheffield Hallam University) were found to be the most energy-inefficient in the sector. This is despite repeated claims by TESCO management that they are a "green" company. In fact, it would take more than 60 corner shops and greengrocers to match the carbon dioxide emissions from one average sized superstore.

Worldwide TESCO does not respect the right of workers to a fair wage, to decent working hours or a right to organize. For example, in Turkey TESCO has had a history of engaging in union-busting campaigns. Pressure is put on union members to resign in the hopes that the company can push representation below fifty per cent and thus ignore worker representation rights. Even as union membership has grown well beyond the half-way level TESCO still contests recognition and refuses to meet with union leaders. In the UK, the major food retailers can exert undue pressure on suppliers causing job losses in food processing companies that simply cannot produce goods at the prices TESCO and their competitors wish to pay. In Chard in March 2006 local GMB activists organised a demonstration outside TESCO when the company pulling a contract from a local employer resulted in 850 job losses in the South West, and 500 in Chard alone.

TESCO and other supermarkets fail to pay farmers a fair share of retail prices. Thousands of farmers and workers are forced to leave the industry each year because of the low prices they receive for their produce. Farmers' organisations believe that a major contributory factor to this crisis in British farming is the increasing buying power of supermarkets and their ability to squeeze suppliers.

Plans to build a convenience store in your neighbourhood may seem trivial at first (and this is exactly how companies like TESCO want it to appear). But the issues exposed have the potential to seriously impair community life. Corporations like TESCO thrive on indifference and apathy towards their policies. So, let's force on them the accountability and the scrutiny they deserve. Let us defend what we have here and not allow Walkley to become yet another bland outlet, a clone high street in "superstore Britain".

The Fargate Speaker is not produced, written, funded or supported by any politician, business, political party, religion or state-funded organisation ... WE DO NOT WANT YOUR MONEY! WE DO NOT WANT YOU TO SIGN UP TO A POLITICAL PARTY! ... The Fargate Speaker is a community based anti-capitalist, anti-fascist, libertarian publication designed to engage with the real issues that concern local people ... We welcome letters and contributions from readers -

Please contact - fargatespeaker@googlemail.com

SO WHAT CAN I DO?

- (OR HOW TO SCARE THE HELL OUT OF CORPORATE GIANTS)



- Corporations like TESCO have one over-riding concern – PROFIT. So let's hit them where it hurts!! If you are a regular shopper at TESCO or even a potential shopper at TESCO you can boycott their goods. Then send a letter or an email to their CEO Sir Terry Leahy and tell him how much you spend each week on groceries, how much they will be losing of your business and why you are doing this.

Tesco CEO: Sir Terry Leahy, Tesco House, Delamare Road, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, EN8 9SL, terry.leahy@tesco.com

- WRITE A LETTER OF OBJECTION TO THE PLANNING OFFICER. The official closing date for objections has closed but if you send one in they should still be counted up to the date the application is heard.

Letters or e-mails of objection, including full name and address, can be emailed to bob.turner@sheffield.gov.uk or posted to Bob Turner, Planning Department, Development Control, 5th Floor, Howden House, 1 Union Street, Sheffield.

- SPREAD THE WORD. Community campaigns are only as strong as the people involved in them. Tell your neighbours about the information in this leaflet or maybe bring it to your local or workplace. We welcome people posting the front cover in (shop) windows to publicise objections.

- OCCUPY AND DEFEND. TESCO normally has such a high success rate with these planning applications because the alternative is a derelict site falling into disrepair. This does not have to be the case. Initiatives such as the Common Ground Community Garden in Reading have proven hugely successful in bringing people together behind a common goal and creating something of real value to the area. This may seem an impossible task but it doesn't in fact take much to have an impact – a few garden tools, some eager hands and a bit of organisation. We don't have to wait for the council to render a decision – let's take the decision ourselves now!!

THE FARGATE SPEAKER

THE REAL ISSUES, THE WHOLE STORY



TESCO SPECIAL

KICK TESCO OUT OF CROOKES!!!

5 THINGS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW ABOUT TESCO SUPERSTORE:

1. **TESCO does not provide good jobs for local people.** TESCO supermarket jobs are low paying, have long hours and shop stewards have reported trouble in getting workers on to company pensions schemes. TESCO has categorically stated for past Sheffield developments that it does not intend to hire its “high skilled” (and higher paying) labour from the local area.

2. **TESCO is bad for the environment.** TESCO transports millions of tonnes of produce around the world, contributing to climate change through transport emissions. A 2005 Friends of the Earth survey found that TESCO came lowest out of the supermarket chains for sourcing British apples. TESCO stores are also the most environmentally inefficient in the sector.

3. **TESCO exploits workers worldwide.** Women in Bangladesh making clothes for TESCO and ASDA earn as little as 5p an hour working 14 hours a day. Workers in Costa Rica producing bananas for export to all major UK supermarkets earn 33p an hour - a wage so low that they cannot afford to take an hour off when dangerous pesticides are being sprayed on the crops. There are countless other examples of TESCO’s negligence towards its workers poverty wages, poor working conditions and supplier’s union-busting campaigns.

4. **TESCO kills community life.** Despite its commitment towards “community sponsorship”, TESCO has a poor record working with communities. TESCO creates neither choice nor convenience. It removes the diversity of social life outside the superstore and clutters the streets with waste and traffic. The corporation uses its disproportionate (and unchecked) economic power to manipulate political influence and regional control to its own shareholders ends.

5. **TESCO already has five other stores within walking distance** – West Street, Infirmary Road, Fulwood Road, Southey and Ecclesall (not to mention other companies supermarkets – 20 within a two mile radius!). This is not about free enterprise; this is about TESCO securing its strangle-hold on the market place.

(please display this cover in the window of your home or business)

COMMUNITY ACTION, COMMUNITY RESISTANCE