

MILNGAVIE -- TESCO'S REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

Notes from Public Meeting

Date : Thursday 14th January 2010, 7.30pm

Place : Fraser Centre, Milngavie

Present : About 100 people including MP, MSP's, Councillors, local traders and residents

Purpose of meeting : To publicly debate Tesco's proposals for a new superstore & parking

Status : Meeting called by Eve Gilmore as part of the "We Like Milngavie" Initiative

SUMMARY NOTES FROM MEETING :

- There appeared to be unanimous opposition to the current proposals as per Tesco's planning application presently under consideration by the local planning authority, East Dunbartonshire Council.
- Generally most speakers were opposed to various aspects of the proposed development, especially excessive size, insensitive design, inappropriate materials, and adverse effect on village and local shops.
- Other specific topics of concern included :
 1. Potential "grid-lock" effect of increased traffic on local road network
 2. New building 7 metres above Woodburn Way and twice the size of existing store
 3. Loss of continuity of trading facility for 18 months during construction period
 4. Lack of provision of scale model of the proposed development
 5. Existing satisfactory provision of sufficient choice of non-food items
 6. Unattractive building for visitors entering Milngavie by car or by train
 7. Out-of-scale buildings adjacent to village of character and Conservation Area.
 8. Proposal contrary to various Policies in EDC Local Plan
 9. Insufficient community consultation and public awareness
 10. Dwarfing effect on Listed Building at Gavin's Mill
 11. Unproven need for larger store and increased range of goods
 12. Absence of Retail Impact Assessment, Environmental Report and Traffic Study
 13. Concerns for wildlife on adjacent Allander Water and wildlife corridor
 14. Damaging effect of construction traffic on local roads
 15. Lack of suitable links to village centre
 16. Range of goods to be stocked not specified
 17. Constant noise from plant for air conditioning and freezers.
 18. Light pollution from 24 hour operation of store
 19. Misleading and possibly inaccurate publicity material and drawings
 20. Prominent visibility of this large building from various aspects
 21. Lack of respect for local community by large commercial operator
 22. Lack of trust by locals of the applicant and their long term intentions
 22. Unattractive approach for start of West Highland Way
 24. Adverse combined effects of this development and the Kilmardinny scheme
 25. Concern about traffic issues at site entrance, and control of parking

Some passionate comments from the audience :

"Don't need it" ; "Monstrosity" ; "Only a refurbishment needed" ; "Looks like a shed" ; "Vandalising the village" ; "Retail park in a village setting" ; "Driven by greed and profit" ; "Boycott the company" ; "Got this badly wrong" ; "Totally out of proportion" ; "Over-development" ; "Detrimental to small businesses" ; "Unattractive flat roof" ; "Overwhelmingly opposed" ; "Completely unnecessary and inappropriate"

The way forward :

Individually object to the proposals before mid February 2010

Lobby local councillors, MP and MSP's

Increase awareness in the community

Attempt to engage directly with Tesco's management and development teams