

Save New Barnet.



Press Release

27 October 2008

- for immediate publication -

SAVE NEW BARNET CAMPAIGN 'DISAPPOINTED' BY LATEST TWIST IN TESCO PLANNING SAGA.

Local residents group 'dismayed and disappointed' by supermarket's decision to call in Planning Inspectorate over delayed Tesco Express application in New Barnet.

The SAVE NEW BARNET CAMPAIGN* has expressed its 'grave concern' at Tesco's decision to call in the Planning Inspectorate over delayed plans for a Tesco Express in New Barnet. The appeal, which was announced on 13th October 2008, centres around Barnet Council's non-determination of an application to develop a Tesco Express at 7-11 Victoria Road, New Barnet.

The announcement comes just weeks before a second Tesco planning application for New Barnet is expected, this time for a 24-hour multi-story superstore opposite the Tesco Express site. This is in addition to an existing Tesco Express store situated 550 metres away on East Barnet Road.

David Howard, founder of the SAVE NEW BARNET CAMPAIGN and trustee of New Barnet Community Association (NBCA), said: "What are Tesco playing at? In the Tesco Express planning application, Tesco's own research states that New Barnet needs an additional 682 square metres of retail provision. A similar study by Barnet Council suggests that figure is around 840 square metres. Does that mean that if Tesco get planning permission for the Tesco Express, they'll walk away from the 4,500 square metre superstore they seem hell-bent on building just a few yards away?"

John Dix, spokesperson for the SAVE NEW BARNET CAMPAIGN, said: "I'm dismayed and disappointed, if not completely surprised, by Tesco's latest move. Why do they want a Tesco Express and a superstore on adjacent sites? This appeal could end up costing local taxpayers thousands of pounds: something which won't help Tesco win any popularity contests with the council or local residents."

An independent survey of 500 local residents carried out last month by The Research Practice** showed that 86% were strongly opposed to Tesco's plans for New Barnet.

ENDS

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The SAVE NEW BARNET CAMPAIGN is a non-political group of local residents fighting for a better New Barnet. The group opposes inappropriate retail development and has a clear vision for how New Barnet could be developed for the benefit of all the community.

c/o Community Centre, 48-50 Victoria Road, New Barnet, EN4 9PF

www.newbarnet.org.uk

Save New Barnet.



Timeline of Tesco's planning applications for 7-11 Victoria Road, New Barnet.

First application: October 2007 (refused November 2007).

Second application: January 2008.

Appeal to planning inspectorate: October 2008.

Notes to Editors:

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