

19 MAY 2011



16 May 2011

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RE: Tesco Milngavie – Proposal of Application Notice (PAN)

Dear Ms Swinson,

Thank you for your letter regarding the Tesco proposals for Milngavie. I have been liaising with your office and I look forward to our meeting on the 2nd of June. As I informed your office at the end April, I am happy to meet sooner if you are available. In the meantime, I have addressed some of the points you raised below.

As you will be aware from my previous letter of 5 April, we have submitted a Proposal of Application Notice for our site in Milngavie town centre. In line with the Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006, a Proposal of Application Notice starts the consultation process for national and major developments in Scotland. The aim of this process is to encourage developers to enter into a dialogue with local communities, display their proposals, listen to ideas and opinions, and incorporate them into their plans.

I would like to reassure you that a Proposal of Application Notice is not a planning application and does not indicate that plans are in a finalised state. I would also like to reiterate that although the Proposal of Application Notice is required to be submitted to the planning authority a minimum of 12 weeks ahead of the application, the consultation can continue for longer than 12 weeks – and that this is our intention.

We are dedicated to ensuring that the consultation process is genuine and we have agreed a programme of consultation with officers from East Dunbartonshire Council officers which goes beyond statutory requirements. We have also asked the council planning officers to attend meetings and exhibitions to ensure that our processes are as transparent and meaningful as possible.

This consultation process will involve (but not be limited to) an early meeting with representatives from community groups (including We Like Milngavie and the various community councils) so that we can create materials for further consultation with the community through a public exhibition. After taking into consideration the content and outcome of this meeting, we will hold a two-day manned, public exhibition (in the existing Tesco store and in a central Milngavie location), and a further meeting with community groups to discuss the feedback that we have received to-date. To continue to gauge public opinion on the development we will be circulating leaflets locally which include the exhibition materials, contact details and a freepost reply form to ensure that ample opportunity to provide comment is available.

With regards to the timing of the Proposal of Application, we believe it is important for local people to understand that Tesco remains committed to investing in Milngavie with the redevelopment of our town centre site. The Reporter's decision in March has allowed our planning team sufficient time to digest the feedback and we did not wish to keep local people guessing as to what Tesco would do next as we have repeatedly expressed our commitment to Milngavie. The Reporter's decision and comments on the previous proposal are clear and we believe that solutions can be found.

As the Reporter outlined, "A fresh application would provide an opportunity for reasoned discussion between the appellant and the council and further consultation with interested parties." We are dedicated to consulting the community on the future of our store in Milngavie and look forward to meeting with community groups in the near future.

In addition I shall endeavour to keep you, locally elected members and relevant Members of the Scottish Parliament updated.

I do hope that this helps to reinforce our commitment to working with the Milngavie community. Should you require any additional information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely
for and on behalf of
TESCO STORES LIMITED

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G Coats', followed by a period.

Gloria Coats
Corporate Affairs Manager
Tesco Scottish Office