

# Bristol City Council can still say NO to Tesco in Stokes Croft

18 March for immediate release

Bristol City Council planning team has this week received over 2500 petition cards saying NO to Tesco in Stokes Croft and asking them to conduct a meaningful consultation over the proposed site for yet another Tesco store [1]. The community was completely unaware of the application and therefore unable to feed in to the process. No Tesco in Stokes Croft's own consultation of nearly 500 people found a staggering 96% believe the Cheltenham Road does not need another supermarket – there are already five Tesco stores trading within one mile [2].

At a meeting with representatives from No Tesco in Stokes Croft, the Council's planning team agreed to tell everyone who sent in a card when Tesco apply for the final parts of planning permission. This 'shopfronts application', which considers the impact of a Tesco shopfront on the local area, represents an imminent opportunity for the community of Stokes Croft to stop Tesco from opening through legitimate channels [3].

Claire Milne, local resident representing the community group No Tesco in Stokes Croft said, *"Planning law continues to serve the needs of big business rather than local communities and it's frustrating that we are pushed to use the shopfront application to raise our concerns. This process technically prevents Bristol City Council from responding to concerns beyond those to do with the shop front. This is an opportunity to address planning processes that fail communities and undermine the Council's stated intention to work towards a sustainable Bristol. Support for the 'No Tesco in Stokes Croft' campaign has been overwhelming and we're determined to make our voices heard."*

Bristol City Council has been meeting with Tesco to help tailor their architectural plans to be accepted through this final planning process. The No Tesco in Stokes Croft campaign will be making every effort to help the community understand this part of the planning application (an area that often excludes people by being too complicated) and advise how their actions can be most effective. Thanks to the strength of local opposition to the proposed Tesco the Council's decision will now be made by a Committee at a public meeting rather than by a case officer behind closed doors.

[ends]

## For more information please contact:

Claire Mile 07824878904

Sam Allen 07775612215 (please contact for high res images)

Website: <http://notesco.wordpress.com/#>

Facebook: Tescos at the former jesters site, Stokes croft! They must be joking.

Petitions:

[http://epetitions.bristol.gov.uk/epetition\\_core/community/petition/639](http://epetitions.bristol.gov.uk/epetition_core/community/petition/639)

[http://epetitions.bristol.gov.uk/epetition\\_core/community/petition/647](http://epetitions.bristol.gov.uk/epetition_core/community/petition/647)

## Notes

[1] The majority of cards were collected at businesses just doors away from the proposed Tesco site at the former "Jesters" on Cheltenham Road, Stokes Croft Bristol.

Images of local post office owner and local resident Bushra Randhawa with stacks of petition cards and card design attached. Please contact Sam Allen for High res images.

[2] The campaign group carried out their consultation after Bristol City Council received no response from the 55 local residents they consulted last October – the No Tesco in Stokes Croft campaign has yet to find anyone who received the Council's letter. The 'No Tesco in Stokes Croft campaign has since visited and attempted to survey each of the 55 addresses that were consulted by the council.

Surveys were conducted by doorstop canvassing, at local shops and online between 1st Feb 2010 – 5th March 2010. 128 surveys were completed online whilst the remaining 349 were paper surveys completed by either canvassers in the presence of local residence or residents themselves. Please see attached doc for full results

As a key campaign ask the No Tesco in Stokes Croft campaign recognises the need to consult on a wider level – their consultation carried out by a local team of volunteers is an attempt to start the process.

Bristol City Council granted Change of Use of planning permission after conducting the minimum legal requirement for consultation.

- a) Sending letters to 55 neighbouring residents (and received zero responses)
- b) Sticking one A4 notification on a nearby lamppost stipulating that Change of Use had been applied for (by an outside contractor)
- c) Publishing one line at the back of the Evening Post under Statutory Notifications

[3] <http://www.bristol.gov.uk/ccm/content/Environment-Planning/Planning/planning-policy-documents/bristol-local-plan/spg-file-storage-items/PAN8.en>



**Say no to Tesco in Stokes Croft**