

To whom it may concern

31st March 2006

I write to express my objection to the application made by Tesco Stores to change the opening hours of the Store and Petrol Station to 24 hours. It is a great disappointment and it saddens me that such an application has been made, unfortunately though, it is not a surprise. I have been a local resident since before the construction of the superstore, indeed I was on the original committee that organised and built the Yeading Community Centre and was a governor of a local school for 4 years.

I distinctly remember the days shortly after Tesco first “accidentally” unveiled a 24 hour logo on their Petrol Station, in all the fuss the Store Manager claimed it was all a mistake – there had never been any intention to be 24 hours and they covered the “24” part with a white over sticker (indeed it is still visible from the road)”. This was followed by the large number of complaints about the attitude and parking of a number of their drivers – clearly flouting the existing rules and regulations. Indeed at the time our store was the only Tesco Extra not to be open 24 hours – something Tesco denied would be a problem – but it was obvious that the pressure from senior management would always be to try and rectify this situation

At quite a stormy council meeting our local MP supported our aims to stop the changing of the regulations on the deliveries – we mentioned at this meeting that this was just a stepping stone to 24 hour opening – something Tesco strongly denied at the meeting. Some councillors expressed great support to us that evening. Stating that they would never support the 24 hour opening of the store in such a residential area. I hope that this strong belief is still held and that Tesco, once again, will not be able to get away with such blatant disregard for local rules, regulations and officials.

There have been countless cases in the UK where Tesco has flouted regulations, such as this case in Stockport;
http://www.stockportexpress.co.uk/news/s/22/22520_councillor_pledges_no_special_treatment_in_tesco_planning_row.html where locals are demanding that Tesco demolish up to 20% of its store that was built without planning permission. Indeed, such has been the level in which Tesco has flouted these rules that a website has been setup - <http://www.tescopoly.org> – this site lists, amongst others, the successful campaign by local residents in Yiewsley to have permission denied. I will be contacting Tescopoly and passing them all of the facts surrounding the last 4 years dealings with Tesco, the local residents and the councillors – to make sure that more people are made aware of the shameful way in which they have treated local residents since moving into Yeading and creating an area on the site where locals can make their feelings known to the public and the press.

Regards