

## DEMONSTRATION: Residents angry as council gives the OK to store

**PLANS to build Coventry's largest Tesco superstore have been approved by councillors, despite objections from more than 100 local residents.**

The giant new Tesco Extra to replace the supermarket chain's existing store at Cannon Park will be bigger than its superstore at next to the Ricoh Arena.

Tesco's bosses said the intention was to serve not just the whole of south Coventry, but Warwickshire towns and villages south of the city.

About 60 Cannon Park residents and local Wainbody councillors made their objections clear at a fractious planning committee meeting yesterday.

They are concerned traffic will clog up already congested roads and that the partial closing of De Montfort Way would force elderly and disabled residents to use a "dangerous" new walkway through an underground car park, as well as crossing six lanes of traffic.

More than 100 congregationalists at St Joseph The Worker Church also petitioned the council, saying a new Tesco petrol station very closeby would disturb their peace during worship.

Coun Tim Sawdon (Con, Wainbody) also scoffed at developers' claims that two new four and three-storey blocks of accommodation next to the new store would create a "visually exciting landmark".

But Labour councillor Kevin Maton said the development's design would not be detrimental to nearby residents. He disputed residents' claims that existing congestion resulted from Tesco customers, rather than the near-

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by Warwick University Science Park, and commuters in peak times.

The committee narrowly voted to grant planning permission providing Tesco met conditions including providing community funding, traffic measures, and restricting the residential blocks to three stories.

Steve Dolphin, chairman of Cannon Park Community Association, said after the meeting: "We're disappointed with the decision. Only six councillors were there to vote, and only three voted in favour, with one against and two abstentions. So much for democracy.

"We're disappointed they did not allow more time for Tesco to address the issues of residents."

Tesco corporate affairs manager Tony Fletcher said some con-

# Tesco gets go-ahead



ONE VOICE... Objectors to the new shop meet outside the council office with (front, left to right) Steve Dolphin (chairman of the Community Association), Pip Halford (resident), David Hill (secretary of the Community Association).  
**Picture Mark Radford**

cessions had already been made, including widening the car park walkway with improved lighting, and reducing the height of the accommodation.

He said: "We're delighted with this afternoon's result. It will create 275 new jobs for the local community. We have been working with them for two years."