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30 October 2010

Planning Department
Welwyn Hatfield Council
Council Offices
The Campus
Welwyn Garden City
Herts. AL8 6AE.

PLANNING
DEPARTMENT
- 2 NOV 2010
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Dear Sirs,

Re: Application for Planning on Broadwater site, Welwyn Garden City

I wish to object strongly to the application put before the council by Spenhills on behalf of Tesco's. I feel it would be contrary to the council's Supplementary Planning Document and would undermine the key principles if the application were to go ahead.

The traffic, delivery lorries and cars, which a supermarket and extra housing would create would be greatly increased, and the junction at Bridge Road and Bessemer Road is already extremely busy at peak times. The actual building work on the site would itself create disruption in the area, not to mention the dust and damage to the environment.

The town already has two large supermarkets - Waitrose (which has recently increased in size) and Sainsburys (now well underway), and the food hall in Marks & Spencer is of a considerable size. The Oldings roundabout, which is only a few minutes away, has a large Tesco's already and it would seem really unnecessary for another in the area. There are also, of course large Tesco's at Hertford, Stevenage and St. Albans. The small shopping areas in the town, such as at Peartree, Hall Grove and Woodhall, would suffer badly, as would smaller shops in the Howard Centre. Would John Lewis remain if this supermarket were to be built?

The footbridge over the railway shown in the plan seems to stop and end in a lift, which would be most unsuitable and could be highly dangerous with the increased numbers of people that would use it. A new and more substantial bridge is needed and it would be preferable to have escalators as well as a lift at the eastern end.

Welwyn Garden City is, and always has been, a very special place and is famous throughout the world for its planning and individual character. We need to keep it that way and the council must reject these plans.

Yours faithfully

