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12 JAN 2011

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Absolute Blinds Limited

25 Brownfields
Welwyn Garden City
Hertfordshire AL7 1AN



4th January 2011

Richard Aston
Head of Planning
Welwyn Garden City Council
Welwyn Garden City
Herts

Planning Ref no. M6/2010/2055/MA
Tesco's Proposed Development, Broadwater Rd

Dear Mr Aston

As a person who has lived and worked in Welwyn Garden City all my life I feel I have a contribution to offer regarding the debate on what can and should be built on the old Nabisco site in Broadwater Rd.

I have read the Tesco proposal to build a large store on the site and to build facilities for the community ie a swimming pool.

I believe the arguments for and against the Tesco proposal should be made on whether it is good for the local economy, whether another large supermarket in the town is necessary and what else can be built on the site that would benefit Welwyn Garden City more.

I would like to talk about the local economy, as it's an area I have most to contribute.

I honestly believe it will be extremely beneficial to W.G.C for the following reasons.

. W.G.C will become an even more appealing shopping centre bringing substantially more people from outside the area into what will probably be the

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best shopping centre outside the M25. With the A1 and the Railway Station so close I think people from along way out will visit.

. The site has been derelict and an eye sore for a number of years. If Tesco's don't go ahead their proposal and decided to sell on the site, I'm guessing they wouldn't, the only possible construction that could be built instead would be housing. In my view I can't see any commercial/Industrial development being a variable option for at least 5 to 10 years due to the British Economy and the amount of empty office/warehouse in Welwyn and surrounding Towns. I'm against more houses being built on Employment land as it brings more people into the area without the local work available.

. Parts of the other side of the Broadwater Rd from the old Nabisco site is also looking run down. If a large Tesco store were built this would then promote other businesses to move close by, thus modernising the main access route into W.G.C.

. The Tesco proposal will create a large number of jobs for Welwyn but just as important is the additional benefit to other business in the town, the more people employed the more money is spent buying from local companies.

. Does W.G.C need another Supermarket? I personally think we have enough but Tesco obviously believe there is a market for another store and I think the planners have to be careful not to interfere with free trade. Should the council decide on how many Vets, Blind Companies, Car Mechanics, Accountants etc should be in the area?

I know that a growing number of the public are very anti Tesco's for different reasons, some I agree are valid expanding into more and more areas of business but a lot of people are just against Tesco's for being successful. If the site were bought by Waitrose or Sainsbury's I don't think we would be hearing the same opposition.

Therefore I believe we should accept Tesco's proposal and try and negotiate a good a deal for the community as possible.

