

Tesco Development Proposal

Statement from Highams Park Forum – 30th November 2009

The Highams Park Forum regrets the decision of the Secretary of State. The Forum welcomes development which is appropriate to Highams Park and which will genuinely regenerate the area, and we have always said that we would welcome a smaller store. But we believe that this store is far too large, that it will damage local shops and businesses, and that it will bring unacceptable traffic congestion and pollution.

We will hold the Council and its Officers accountable for the effects of this scheme which we believe is based on poor advice and flawed assessments.

This is the third application by Tesco. The previous applications were far worse, would have laid a large part of Highams Park waste to a vast car park, and would have diverted northbound buses through the traffic jam created by the store. The first scheme also involved a long walk to the store entrance for anyone on foot. Nevertheless those schemes were supported by Waltham Forest Council who have shown a lack of initiative throughout. It is only because the Highams Park Forum successfully challenged the previous applications that the layout of the site is now greatly improved, with access direct to the existing shops, bus stops and station, and with a new Health Centre and community facilities.

Roger Torode
Chair
Highams Park Forum