

## Test Valley Friends of the Earth

122 Millway Road, Andover, SP10 3AY

Telephone: 01264 352108; Email:  
Bartholomew122@yahoo.co.uk; Website  
<http://www.freewebs.com/tvfoe/>

Dear Madalene Winters, Planning Department,

### **TEST VALLEY FRIENDS OF THE EARTH OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED TESCO WAREHOUSE AT THE OLD ANDOVER AIRFIELD SITE.**

Test Valley Friends of the Earth are extremely concerned about levels of carbon dioxide emissions and the threat Climate Change poses and therefore object to the proposed Tesco Warehouse on the grounds that carbon dioxide emissions will be increased due to this project.

#### **Background to reducing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions.**

The fact that Climate Change is a consequence of burning fossil fuels in vast quantities and therefore increasing CO<sub>2</sub> levels in the atmosphere, has been validated by the scientific bodies advising the government.

The Climate Change Bill currently in draft form aims to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> levels by 60% of 1990 levels by the year 2050. This is now in debate. Friends of the Earth are calling for an 80% reduction and the Royal Society and other scientific bodies are in agreement that a 60% reduction will not be enough to avoid the worst impacts of Climate Change. Test Valley Friends of the Earth held a Public Meeting in May 2007, at which Sir George Young spoke, to encourage groups and individuals to respond to the draft Climate Change Bill and make it a strong and robust bill to enable measures to be taken to reduce emissions year on year. To achieve this vast reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>, plans need to be implemented by all Local Authorities whilst looking at planning applications, firstly to avoid an increase in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and secondly to ensure measures are in place to reduce emissions.

Andover Vision have produced a booklet in which they state they have talked about ideas for the future which include generating 50% of our power in Andover from renewable resources. I am presuming this is electricity and hot water. At the same time a check needs to be kept on transport as an increase in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from extra traffic would be in danger of wiping out any CO<sub>2</sub> savings made from renewable energy.

Test Valley Environmental Action Group is part of Test Valley Borough Council's Strategic Partnership and they have actions and an outcome goal to:-

Improve understanding of Climate Change and encourage individuals, businesses and others to take action to reduce effects:

1. By supporting current Climate Change campaigns to raise awareness and increase understanding throughout the Test Valley.
2. To develop community initiatives to encourage action to reduce the effects of Climate Change, such as encouraging sustainable transport methods and eating local produce.

Testway Housing and Test Valley Borough Council has now completed their first Ecohomes which demonstrate the environmental standards which can be achieved in new build homes. This has been publicised in the media as the way forward for Test Valley to reduce its Carbon Footprint. Whilst looking at energy savings in the home transportation must not be ignored.

Use of Biofuels for Transport. As a note, Test Valley Friends of the Earth are not in favour of replacing fossil fuels for transport with biofuels on a large scale. Large scale production will use land currently needed for food production and in Asia there is more pressure on tropical rainforest to be felled or burnt to make land available for palm oil plantations causing increased CO2 emissions, loss of habitat for endangered species and environmental degradation.

### **Objections to the Proposed Tesco Warehouse**

1. Increased number of heavy goods vehicle journeys.
2. Lorries queuing around the area, possibly with their engines running to await their allocated timed slots. 600 lorries per hour are predicted.
3. The roads north, south east and west of Andover not coping with the increased traffic. Traffic in jams use fuel whilst not actually travelling anywhere.
4. The lack of opportunity in this plan to transport goods by rail. The site is close to a branch line.
5. Andover has a low unemployment rate and would be unlikely to fill 1200 positions therefore there would be an increase in the number of people travelling from more distant locations. An increase in traffic through villages to reach the site would cause congestion as in places there is not room for two way traffic.
6. Sustainable transport methods would be more difficult to put into place as more people would be discouraged from walking or cycling in the surrounding villages. Coming into Andover from Monxton is already difficult for cyclists and pedestrians due to traffic at the two busy roundabouts between DLO and Weyhill Road.
7. Food products making their way from various parts of the world clocking up food miles abroad and in this country when, to reduce CO2 emissions, emphasis needs to be put on producing and selling food locally.
8. Tesco often gives poor deals to farmers in the UK as well as abroad. The price cutting deals large supermarkets make can put small local shops out of business. This is bad news for rural communities and leads to exclusion of older people and

those unable to drive and an increase of those with cars driving to more distant shops.

Therefore Test Valley Friends of the Earth think that giving planning permission for a huge warehouse, which has been reported as being the largest building in the country, is unsustainable as it will lead to an increase in CO2 emissions and make all the targets of Government, Local Government and Community Organisations to reduce carbon dioxide emissions unobtainable. The overall effect would be to increase emissions when all targets call for a focus on reduction year on year to avoid the worst impacts of Climate Change.

If you need further information about items mentioned above please contact Carol Bartholomew at the address below.

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