



PUBLIC PETITION NO.

PE01497

Name of petitioner

Ellie Harrison on behalf of Say NO to TESCO!

Petition title

Supermarket expansion on local high streets

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to give local councils and communities the power to stop unwanted supermarket expansion on their local high streets.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition

Prior to submitting this petition to the Scottish Parliament, we have been campaigning throughout the West End of Glasgow for more than six months in an attempt to stop two further Tesco stores from opening at 341 Great Western Road in Kelvinbridge and on Argyle Street in Yorkhill.

We have held numerous public meetings and have spoken to and been supported by Councillors in the area, Martha Wardrop and Ken Andrew among others. We are also supported by our MSP Sandra White and have been in regular correspondence with her.

The campaign was featured in the Evening Times earlier in the year:
<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/campaigners-hit-out-at-plan-for-tesco-store-in-west-end-126769n.21249913>

On 3 September 2013, local residents and businesses in the Kelvinbridge, Yorkhill and Hyndland areas of the city joined forces under the name **Say NO to Tesco!** to present a petition to the Glasgow City Council Petitions Committee Meeting calling on the council to stop these two Tesco Stores from opening and to think twice about granting permission to allow more to opening in the future.

In preparation for our meeting with Glasgow City Council Petitions Committee, campaigners from our group did extensive research interviewing local traders who have been directly affected by the new Tescos which have already opened in Glasgow's West End. Some examples are given in the Background Info section.

Petition background information

Unwanted supermarket expansion our local high streets is posing a real threat to

independent traders and creating the risk of a supermarket monopoly over our food supply.

The Scottish Government must take urgent and decisive action to address this new problem, which has been escalating over the last few years. Tesco and the other major supermarkets (Sainsbury's, Morrisons, Waitrose, M&S etc.) are continuing to open more smaller 'Express' and 'Local' stores on our local high streets, because they do not require the same planning permission as larger stores. These smaller supermarkets are now competing directly with independent grocers, newsagents and convenience stores which would have normally been independently owned and run.

In areas where there is already good access to other local food suppliers / grocers, these new supermarkets are clearly not wanted by local communities and yet they currently seem powerless to stop them. The proliferation of these new supermarkets is causing the homogenisation of once vibrant and distinct parts of Scotland, and is having a devastating effect on local economies. Independent traders are being forced to close whilst profits haemorrhage out of Scotland to the supermarket's shareholders in other parts of the UK and abroad.

This Scotland-wide petition to the Scottish Parliament has resulted from the frustrations of two local communities in the West End of Glasgow who have found themselves powerless in stopping two new Tesco 'Express' stores opening on their local high streets. This is despite the fact that these two new stores are within two-mile area in which nine new Tesco stores have already opened within in the last few years.

Local residents and businesses in the Kelvinbridge, Yorkhill and Hyndland areas of the city joined forces with the name **Say NO to Tesco!** to present a similar petition to Glasgow City Council Petitions Committee Meeting on 3 September 2013, in the hope of preventing these two new Tesco stores from opening and influencing Glasgow's new Local Development Plan in order to prevent further unwanted supermarket expansion on our local high streets.

At the Petitions Committee meeting it became apparent that all the key planning documents (Glasgow's City Plan 2, National Planning Framework, the Scottish Planning Policy) already do place an emphasis on preserving and enhancing the 'distinct identities' of local high streets and on encouraging 'sustainable development'. However local councils and communities do not seem to have the legislative power to uphold these ambitions and are powerless to stop more unwanted 'Express' and 'Local' supermarkets from opening in the future.

Following the opening of Tesco 'Express' on Queen Margaret Drive in Glasgow in 2011:

- Queen Margaret Store Licensed Newsagents are having to consider closing their 22 year-old family business after a 70% loss in profits.
- Western Newsagent, run by Mr Sultan, has similarly suffered a 70% loss in profits and has been forced to reduce employees' hours by 93%. Mr Sultan has had to reduce his stock orders by more than half because he no longer has the finances to buy the amount and variety of stock he used to purchase, affecting his local suppliers in turn. This reduction in amount and variety of stock is responsible for further loss of customers as he is not always able to provide wanted items.

Small food retailers on Byres Road, Maryhill Road, and Queen Margaret Drive express dismay and frustration at the current planning process which has allowed the development of Tesco stores (Express and Metro in particular) without due consultation and assessments of impact by Glasgow City Council.

We are therefore calling on the Scottish Parliament to change legislation so that local councils do have this power to actively support local independent traders and discriminate against supermarket giants when necessary.

The national campaign group **TESCOPOLY** was founded in 2005 to create awareness

of negative impact Tesco and the other big supermarkets have on local communities. We have been in touch with them for support and have used their website and book for much of our research: www.tescopoly.org

- Tesco already have more than 3,000 stores and take 1/8th of all the money we spend on shopping in the UK.
- Together with all the other big supermarkets they control over 86% of the UK grocery market.
- And yet they still want more!

Unique web address

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/GettingInvolved/Petitions/saynototesco>

Related information for petition

There is plenty of evidence of the negative impact Tesco and the other big supermarkets have on local communities on the national **TESCOPOLY** campaign's website: www.tescopoly.org

Join our **Say NO to Tesco** campaign online:

Facebook Group: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/tescogreatwesternroad>

Email Group: <http://lists.riseup.net/www/info/tescogreatwesternroad>

More Information: <http://bit.ly/tescogreatwesternroad>

Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?

YES

How many signatures have you collected so far?

35

Closing date for collecting signatures online

06 / 12 / 2013

Comments to stimulate online discussion

- Are you alarmed at the number of new Tesco 'Express', Sainsbury's 'Local' or Morrison 'M Local' stores which have opened in your area in the last few years?
- Is this having a detrimental impact on the local, independent traders nearby?
- Do you often have no choice but to shop in the new chain supermarkets because all the old independent traders have been forced to close?
- Do you think communities should have a greater say in what new shops open on their local high streets?

- Should local councils have power to actively support local independent traders and discriminate against supermarket giants when necessary?