



## ***Respecting the past, shaping the future***

Press release from  
Suffolk Preservation Society  
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### **“Be bold and throw out plan”, campaigners urge**

Environmental campaigners have urged planners to “be bold” and throw out proposals for a massive new supermarket amid fears the development would signal the death knell of independent shops and the local community as a whole.

Suffolk Preservation Society (SPS) has warned Waveney District Council that approving the bid for a 3,327sq metre Tesco store on the edge of Halesworth would have an “absolutely devastating” impact on local traders and residents alike.

The society says the proposed store would engulf its neighbours, dominating the town’s skyline. The extra traffic it would generate could also bring local roads to a standstill and increase the risk of accidents, SPS has warned.

“This proposed store is patently wrong in so many ways,” said Dr Mike Coleman, chairman of Suffolk Preservation Society.

“The sheer bulk of the enormous building which Tesco is proposing would have a devastating effect on the town, dwarfing everything else around it and detracting from the beauty of Halesworth’s precious listed buildings and heritage.

“On top of that, such a huge supermarket would undoubtedly sound the death knell for our local retailers. The impact threatens to be absolutely devastating to the quality providers in the town and equally kill off most of the few remaining village stores too.

“It must be stopped immediately as once our local shops have gone, they can never be recovered.”

The society also says the proposal is contrary to Waveney District Council’s own local plan, which earmarks the proposed site south of Angel Link for mixed use, including new housing.

In addition, it also contradicts the council’s own planning core strategy, which says that a recent study concluded there was little capacity for further convenience stores in the district until 2016.

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“National planning policies relating to retail state that applicants must prove the need for their development,” added Dr Coleman. “That certainly hasn’t happened in this case and, along with many other objectors, we are still waiting for Tesco to produce any kind of evidence whatsoever to justify the need for such a large store.

“Coupled with that, we are also seriously concerned about the proximity of the site to a cherished conservation area. The town is home to some of the finest listed buildings in the country, many of which date back to the middle ages. To build this monstrosity on their doorstep is simply unacceptable.

“The building’s inappropriate design will also clash horribly with its surroundings. Its extensive use of glass is too modern for Halesworth, and will contrast brutally with the heritage it would sit alongside.

“It will be nothing more than an enormous blot on what is now some of the most beautiful townscape which Suffolk has to offer.”

### **Ends**

#### **Note to editors:**

SPS, founded in 1929, originally worked to protect the county’s buildings and landscape. Today, the society has broadened its focus to help shape Suffolk’s future, largely campaigning for sensitive and appropriate development, more and better quality affordable homes and to ensure sustainable infrastructures are in place to support the county’s communities.

#### **For more information please contact:**

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