

“In all other matters raised by consultantees’ and other interested parties have been taken into account in consideration of this recommendation but have not been material enough as to lead to an alternative recommendation for refusal” Planning Officers Report page 64.

A major rebuttal of the Tesco Planning and Retail Assessment written by Martin Robeson on behalf of Tesco, prepared by ILLB Group using evidence from Retail Study by WYG for South Bedfordshire, Retail studies for Milton Keynes Borough and Aylesbury Vale, site visits and other extensive research, actually going through each paragraph of the Robeson report to challenge the evidence. Handed in to Central Bedfordshire Planning in January 2011. Not included in the evidence for the Development Planning Committee.

Planning for a Vibrant Leighton Buzzard an extensive document outlining the various PPS 4 sections, reasons, based on PPS4 and other planning criteria, of refusals of other supermarkets in other parts of the country and demonstrating the errors and omissions of Tesco in their application and the reasons behind the Planning Inspectors report on the dismissal of Tesco’s appeal for a similar attempt in 2003, another document (Planning Inspectors) not included in evidence.. A document, professionally printed by a local firm, given to all members of the Development Planning Committee, Leighton Linslade Town Council, Central Bedfordshire Planning (2), Andrew Selous MP and the Leighton Buzzard Observer and copies sent to Tescopoly and interested groups who are also resisting Tesco and other supermarkets.

Numerous objection letters from around the town which only a portion of these were listed and no indication of the actual numbers published in the report which must run to over 100.

Objection letters from the Leighton Buzzard Society a well established group in the town dedicated to making Leighton-Linslade a better place. National Federation of Market Traders who represents the twice weekly market in Leighton Buzzard which has existed for over 1000 years

A petition of over 2,000 signatories against the Tesco proposal

A postcard created by Friends of the Earth asking interested people to fill in name address and their stated objection on planning grounds. 400 completed in less than two hours

A postcard to ask Central Bedfordshire to put the South Side proposal as the major development just under 200 completed in less than a few hours. Similar number to Leighton Linslade Town Council

A simple poll in the Leighton Buzzard Observer which ran for several weeks with nearly 1,000 replies on-line and by special post box in a Leighton Buzzard shop which came out at around 80% against the extension with numerous comments.

A report from GR Planning Services for Homebase backing up the claims of the ILLB Group and very critical of the Martin Robeson report.

The major pieces of work are extensive researched documents sourced and presented in an even-handed approach. These are robust documents. The views of the people of Leighton Buzzard are dismissed even though they are on sound planning grounds, not technically backed up but are their own observations – these people are not stupid and they are the people that the council work for. They want choice and most want Homebase to stay. And they expect the council to do the right thing and robustly back up their concerns.

In a poll conducted in Tesco’s own store over a few days with thousands of customers there only 142 people bothered to fill out the form and of the legitimate forms 60% were against the Tesco extension.

Lastly. Gallup Polls conduct surveys in the USA, scientifically worked out admittedly, using between 1,000 and 1,500 people to represent the views of over 200 million adults in that country and are usually right. We have over 1,000 people who have expressed a view and over 75% are against the Tesco extension, and is statistically correct in assuming 75%+ of the adult population, 27,000 total at last estimate, the majority do not want the Tesco extension which correlates to the national picture that 30% of people use Tesco in the UK – 70% do not.