

Dear Colleague,

**Re: Tesco planning application 0153/F**

As you may already know, Tesco have recently submitted a planning application for Ballyclare to open a new store utilising over 60,000 sq ft of space, on the Hillhead Road. Recently, a presentation was made to the Ballyclare Chamber of Trade by Bryan Gray, Chief Executive of Northern Ireland Independent Retailers Association (NIIRTA), highlighting the potential effects that such a large out of town development could have on our Town Centre. This meeting was well attended and a consensus of opinion was reached within the Chamber

The Chamber has taken the stance that such a large out of town development would inherently harm the commercial viability of Ballyclare town centre, and severely impact on further regeneration and investment within the town. There are many examples all over the UK where this type of development has effectively damaged the commercial viability of a town centre – examples exist much closer to home. Just have a look at Antrim. (This was on the Town Centre boundary, not even located out of town)

This has also now been recognised by the Planning Service of NI which has stipulated in its new Planning Policy Statement 5 issued last year that priority should be given to the development of Town Centres, and not out of town

The Chamber is not against competition, indeed it welcomes the recent new Asda development due to be constructed within the next 12 months, but this is within the Town Centre boundary which will add to, and enhance the existing offer of the town, and further add as a catalyst to even more regeneration.

**To emphasise the strength of feeling from existing businesses within Ballyclare, we would urge you to write to the planning office concerning the Tesco out of town development, and have provided a template letter for you to do this. (This can be downloaded from the Chamber web site – [www.ballyclarecot.com](http://www.ballyclarecot.com) so you can print it with your business letterhead, or type in your relevant details)**

So that we can gauge the level of support, please can you return your letter to Niall McConkey at the address below. Then we can forward them on your behalf. If you have any queries, or wish to discuss this matter further, please feel free to contact either Niall, or myself, Brendan at the details below.

Kind regards,

**Brendan Tweed**  
President - Chamber of Trade  
C/O Fallstaffs Café  
66 Main Street  
Ballyclare  
BT39 9AA

9335 2336

**Niall McConkey**  
Secretary - Chamber of Trade  
C/O Woodsides  
15 Grange Street  
Ballyclare  
BT39 9ZJ

9335 2854