

# Keep Cuffley Rural Community first



## Sorry but there was just no more room!

### In this issue

#### Ballot Paper Distribution

#### Forthcoming events in and around Cuffley

#### Fund Raising

#### Who to write to

#### We need your help

### Special points of interest

- We have been able to secure the service of a specialist planning consultant
- Campaign posters will be available from Wacketts Newsagents
- Diary of Events - visit Wacketts newsagents or visit our web site
- Legal Minds. What is the legal position on a sale if it is demonstrated that a covenant was put in place to restrict competition?

This campaigning group was established 'by public demand' at the meeting on May 18 attended by over 300 people at the Cuffley Hall. The response was so great that many other people were unable to get to the meeting for which we apologise.

### Your view really does matter

This being our first newsletter to go out to all Cuffley and Northaw residents our primary goal is to hold a local referendum to quickly gauge the real views of all the residents, in a fair and impartial way. Funds have been raised quickly to hold a non-binding postal Ballot of the 2300 households. It is planned that the ballot papers will be distributed in about two weeks' time and residents will have 7 days to vote.

### 'Keep Cuffley Rural'

We're a **SINGLE-ISSUE PRESSURE GROUP**, so we hope you understand and like the name. We are totally **NON-POLITICAL**. We have one aim – we are opposed to the specific development of converting what was the Harvester into a Tesco Express store. The main reasons:

- A common concern amongst residents is the volume of traffic passing through the village.
- The proposed Tesco Express development is for top-up shopping which

is heavily reliant on passing trade and will increase congestion in Station Road.

- Large delivery vehicles (or more than one arriving at the same time) would cause a traffic tailback in Station Road.
- Past experience shows that the proposed Tesco Express will lead to a decline in business for the current village shops and possible closure of many, tearing the heart out of the village.

### TESCO Dominance

Many feel Tesco are too dominant in the locality. They already have over 50% of all grocery sales in the EN postal code areas (Sunday Times). There are 10 Tesco stores within a 5 mile radius of Cuffley; www.tesco.com with 4 others including Cuffley. Too much dominance can be unhealthy and ultimately have an affect on competition and pricing. **However**, let us make it clear we are **NOT AGAINST TESCO ITSELF**. Most of us shop at their supermarkets elsewhere regularly or occasionally. We know they are a successful and go-ahead company. What we believe is that **THEY SHOULD STAY OUT OF CUFFLEY!**

## We're on the web

www.keepcuffleyrural.co.uk

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# Money

Many thanks for those who kindly donated some cash at the meeting – The total collected was £695 on the night and another £105 has been handed in to Steve and Glenda Wackett since.

We need further donations to enable the work to continue and if you would like to contribute please see Steve Wackett our Treasurer at Wacketts Newsagents.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

We haven't let the grass grow under our feet and are developing many ideas which we will communicate either via our web-site which will shortly be up and running or by notices in Wacketts Newsagents.

Here are a few

### EVENTS

We hope to organise **orderly and well-attended** events designed to show solidarity to our cause. They are planned for late June and early July and firm dates will be announced shortly, see our website or visit Wacketts for details

### POSTERS, DISPLAYS AND PUBLICITY

It would be good to see large numbers of prominent posters displayed in the village and outside resident's houses. We are working on the designs now. Regular press releases will be issued. We are in contact with one TV network and plan others.

## NOW THE IMPORTANT BIT – WE NEED YOUR HELP

**DISTRIBUTION OF BALLOT PAPERS** – We need more volunteers to join the distribution teams. It is vital that every household gets a ballot paper on time so that the referendum is seen as professional and fair. We especially need somebody in Northaw. If you can help anywhere, please ring Elizabeth Stredwick on 01707 880967

**EVENTS** – We would like to set up a group of all ages (those with children at Cuffley School will be very welcome) to arrange events that gain publicity for the cause. Please telephone John Stredwick on 01707 880967.

**SPECIALIST HELP** - If you have any expertise (or know anybody willing to help) in the Legal areas to augment our existing team, this would be very valuable. Please ring David Holland on 01707 875458 or Brent Cheetham on 01707 873325.

**OTHER IDEAS** – We would love to hear of any other ideas you have to help this campaign – or any news you have heard or read in other areas that would be useful to the cause.

**SHOP LOCALLY** – This is one of the biggest ways you can show your support!

*Noel Rooney of PLP Commercial Printers has very kindly printed this newsletter for free and is subsidising the referendum costs.*

## LETTER-WRITING

There is no doubt that individual letters have a big effect on decisions being made. The force of public opinion is cumulative so approaches on all fronts are required. Tesco are undoubtedly influenced by public opinion -the more letters they receive opposing the scheme the greater chance of a re-think. If you are considering writing to Welwyn and Hatfield District Council planning office, please wait until Tesco submit their plans. We will let you know as soon as the Plans are in.

## PLANNING AND LEGAL ACTIVITY

We are rapidly attempting to develop our expertise in both the areas of planning and in the law concerning the covenant. We have already had a meeting with an experienced Planning Consultant with specialist knowledge of Retail Planning. We now have a greater understanding of the relevant issues and planning process so we can make effective representations on the application when it is submitted to Welwyn & Hatfield District Council.