

## **Email to Councillor John Smith from Tony Souter**

-----Original Message-----

From: Tony Souter [mailto:tony@tonysouter.com]

Sent: 24 January 2010 16:40

To: john.smith@easthants.gov.uk

Subject: North Planning Committee / Tesco

Dear Cllr Smith,

I'm sorry that you were unable to attend the North Planning Committee meeting on the 21st but I listened to your comments, ably read out by Cllr Chick, with interest. You will not be surprised to learn that ARG members have taken considerable exception to your view that ARG was not supporting Tesco on its merits but in terms of solving its own agenda. The implication of your remarks was that members of our group were supporting the Tesco bid in a lemming-like way, to undermine an impending application on the Coors site.

Whilst it is true that ARG are opposed to any retail development on the Coors site, we genuinely believe that if there is to be another supermarket in the town, then the Mill Lane site is an appropriate place for it with many clear advantages over the Coors site. We are an intelligent group of people and our membership is able to make up its own mind about matters that are going to affect them. Some of our members support the Tesco bid, some do not, some even support the idea of no further supermarkets in the town at all. However, we are ALL united in our opinion that the Coors sports ground in Anstey Road, is an totally inappropriate site for any sort of supermarket, large or small.

We are supported in this view by many Alton residents who live in other areas of the town evidenced by the postings on our website [www.ansteyresidents.org.uk](http://www.ansteyresidents.org.uk)

To imply that our members blindly follow instructions from the committee, and are incapable of weighing the arguments and reaching a reasoned decision is, frankly, rather offensive. I think perhaps, that you owe our members an apology.

Tony Souter  
ARG Committee.

## **Reply from Councillor John Smith to Tony Souter**

----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: North Planning Committee / Tesco

Date: Mon, 25 Jan 2010 14:57:47 -0000

From: John Smith <john@stillatsix.plus.com>

To: Tony Souter <tony@tonysouter.com>

CC: Dave Crocker <dave.crocker@btinternet.com>

Dear Mr Souter

Thanks for your comments. I can understand why you might feel miffed. It is unusual for large numbers of people to comment on a planning application from any area not directly associated with the application area. I can only assume that members of the Anstey road group did so in the belief that approval of the Tesco application would reduce the chances of the Coors application succeeding. Nothing wrong with that but it is something that I thought should be taken into account. My mind is still open as to the merits of both applications and I would like to reiterate my concerns regarding the viability of the town centre.

John Smith