

**Abbey Mill Business Centre**  
**Mile End, 12 Seedhill Road**  
**Paisley, PA1 1JS**  
**0141-560-1025**  
10<sup>th</sup> June 2010

**WENDY ALEXANDER MSP**  
**PAISLEY NORTH**

Sir Terry Leahy  
Chief Executive  
Tesco Stores Ltd  
New Tesco House  
Delamare Road  
Cheshunt  
HERTS EN8 9SL

Dear Terry,

### **Tesco & Linwood Town Centre**

I had cause to write to you in January about the three year delay in progressing Tesco's plans for Linwood. As you will be aware Tesco's Linwood project is not merely 'a store' but a town centre regeneration. Hence the delay means no new health centre, no new library, no new town hall, and no new local shops. The current collapsing unoccupied centre renders the whole town centre derelict and unsafe.

This is a far cry from the wonderful promises made by Tesco to the town in early 2007 (brochure attached)

I am prompted to write, not by your retiral but my attendance on Sunday at the 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration of Linwood Parish Church of Scotland along with hundreds of local people. Ironically the office bearers of the local parish church themselves made known to Tesco, three years ago, the existence of the burial vault which is cited as the reason for continuing delays.

The ongoing frustration is real. The site is dangerous. Although Linwood's future is 'small' in the bigger picture of Tesco's global ambitions and you own personal success in stewarding the company, this community feels Tesco hold their fate in its hands.

I hope securing this is one piece of unfinished business you could help resolve prior to handing over the reins.

As the local Member of the Scottish Parliament for the area could I invite you to visit Linwood? A visit from the Chief Executive would signal the corporate commitments given in 2007 will be fulfilled.

I hope you can find even just one hour for such a brief visit as a gesture of continuing interest in this community. I should add Linwood is less than 10minutes from Glasgow Airport so a convenient location for a flying visit.

At minimum I hope you can ensure action on the issues of danger identified in attached email. It is typical of the correspondence I receive on the matter.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Wendy Alexander MSP  
PAISLEY NORTH

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 09, 2010 12:45 PM

**To:** Alexander W (Wendy), MSP

**Subject:** Re: LINWOOD CENTRE REGENERATION BY TESCO

Hi Wendy,

*The bored local youths have decided the deadline has come and gone it seems. Every flat above the shops has been broken into. Left over nik naks are becoming source of entertainment, old paraffin lamp seen suspended from concrete trusses near chemist. Full size house-bricks are being used as missiles to smash the double-glazed windows overlooking Bridge Street. In some cases these are multiple bricks still cemented together. Probably the bricks being taken from the wall which collapsed near the health centre and is lying abandoned like the rest of the place.*

*This project has really turned into a joke Wendy. Something very basic that was even overlooked due to lack of interest was isolating the power supplies to the flats. I am a qualified electrician so I did check that out of professional curiosity. The youths using the flats as somewhere to hang out will have power to plug in phone chargers etc, there is a CD player in one flat either left by its previous tenant or brought in by the youths.*

*I have never in my life seen such a hazard left wide open to a community. The determination to keep the Chemist and Optician open for business is now a real white elephant. Surely it is time to at the very least admit that the shopping centre must become a NO GO AREA and move these two essential local services into temporary units as has always been discussed. If our community council members used the opticians themselves they would perhaps be then able to see what is going on around them.*

*A substantial 20m or so run of metal railings has been stolen either for scrap or for some project. This now presents a double hazard with an exposed drop from the walkway and rusting sharp metal stubs from where the railings have been cut away. This is not the first time railings have been removed in the area. A more substantial run which was pretty much the entire length of the grass area from the old Venture and running around the perimeter of the Tweedie Hall along Kashmir Avenue to terminate at the Health Centre area. The theft of this increased the road safety hazard here and nothing was ever done.*

Cheers,

Tom