Chris's corner

Chris White is the Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for Warwick and Leamington

Two of our local communities are under threat with the potential purchase of the Sarah Siddons site in the Woodloes and the Walnut Tree in Lillington by Tesco. This could have a disastrous consequence for local people.

Small independent shops who have served their communities so well for so long cannot compete with the supermarket juggernaut and too often people feel powerless to make a difference.

Yet in the case of the Sarah Siddons site, in less than a fortnight around 2000 signatures were added to a petition through a campaign led by local councillor Martyn Ashford. I know that a similar petition for the Walnut Tree has also received massive support. Local actions such as these have rapidly grown in momentum, responding to a surge of public anxiety and anger.

I would urge readers to sign petitions, attend public meetings and write to Punch Taverns expressing their concern. These campaigns are the only way that we can make our views known and change minds.

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