

MEDIA INFORMATION

JOBS BOOST FOR BRISTOL AS NEW TESCO SET TO OPEN

A new replacement Tesco Extra store in Bristol Bradley Stoke will create over 300 brand new jobs.

The new flagship store at the heart of the Willow Brook Shopping Centre, in Bradley Stoke, will officially open to the public on Monday October 13th and will provide work for over 600 local people.

New store manager Oliver Hill, who has just been appointed, said: "These are local jobs for local people and I am particularly proud to have played a part in breathing new life into the heart of the local community. The Shopping Centre and its managers led by Scott Lahive are very much a close team and we are delighted to be a part of that team helping to deliver a new retail attraction of which everyone in Bradley Stoke can be very proud.

"I am aiming to deliver the Tesco values including giving our customers fantastic service and low prices and providing a wide range of quality products. Customers will see a clean bright and spacious brand new store with fast and friendly customer service".

Oliver, 38, who has been with Tesco for 11 years comes from Surrey but now lives in the area where he has been heading up the recruitment centre in Bradley Stoke. He and his deputy manager Roly Smith are also pledging their support for the local community, schools, and sports and social groups. "We would be delighted to hear from anyone with any ideas how Tesco can provide ongoing and hands-on support", added Oliver.

As part of the development, the old store where 299 people worked is being demolished and the new replacement store is being built. Construction work with the Bowman Kirkland contractor is well on schedule for the October launch. All existing staff will relocate to the new store but, following three hugely successful recruitment open days, another 300 new staff will begin work.

The new Tesco Extra, at 92,000 square feet, will be one of the biggest stores in Bristol and will have an initial 812 car park spaces but will be extended in the New Year to over 1011.

“ There will inevitably be some traffic disruption initially because of the sheer amount of construction work in progress and we apologise to our customers for any inconvenience which may be caused “, said Oliver. “But it will be worth it in the end when we deliver the whole new look store and a brand new shopping centre at the heart of the community”

Also on the site as a key part of the exciting new Willow Brook Centre will be other prime retailers including Costa Coffee, Carphone Warehouse, Greggs, KFC, Reflections and the Nationwide Building Society.

The Tesco development in effect creates a new town square area for Bradley Stoke and a long awaited focus for the local community creating new jobs and helping to retain trade and business in Bradley Stoke.

The new Tesco Extra will include a range of non food departments, fresh food, deli, fish counter, olive bar, meat counter, hot chicken take away, adults and children’s clothing, a travel money desk, telecom shop, photo lab and electrical department.

It will also have a pharmacy and opticians.

There will be over 15000 different products on offer and 40 checkouts to cope with demand from shoppers.

The store will be open from 8 am Monday then 24 hours up until Saturday when it closes at 22.00. Sunday opening is 10 am to 4pm.