

# Supermarket giant withdraws expansion plan after protest

SUPERMARKET chain Asda has withdrawn controversial plans for an extension at its Sheffield store after protests from residents.

Dozens of people living around the branch, at the Handsworth junction on Sheffield Parkway, gathered for a demonstration outside the store about the impact of the expansion on surrounding traders.

They were particularly worried because Asda was planning to open a pharmacy - when there are independent chemists nearby.

Philip Bartram, property communications manager for Asda, said: "We are withdrawing our planning application to address the issues raised with us. There has been a great deal of support for the plans within the community but there have also been some issues expressed about the potential impact of the proposals.

"We appreciate the input of everyone who has taken the time to comment on our proposals and look forward continuing to engage with the community in the coming months."



**Campaign:** Placard-waving protesters outside Asda's Handsworth branch, which the company wanted to expand.

Picture: Stuart Hastings