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NEWS

WIGSTON

Restaurant owner texts customers seeking objections to new Co-op

‘Help oppose plan for shop’

THE owner of a curry house has texted all of his customers asking them to oppose plans to demolish part of the restaurant and transform it into a Co-op.

Syed Rahman, who owns Cuisine of India, in Kelmars Avenue, Wigston, has sent hundreds of messages to regulars asking them to send objections to Oadby and Wigston Borough Council as part of the public consultation process.

BY PETER WARZYNSKI

A petition has also been set up to gather support for the anti-Co-op campaign.

Under the proposals, a section of the restaurant would be demolished and a 359sqm store built in its place, as well as on part of the car park and beer garden.

Mr Rahman, who is powerless to stop the work due to the terms of his lease, said his business would suffer if the

plans went ahead. He said: “I am the leaseholder of the premises but I can’t say no to the landlord because it’s in my contract.

“Building the store would reduce the size of the restaurant and my car park and have a negative impact on my trade.

“The beer garden is also an important part of the restaurant – it’s a real selling point in the summer – I can’t afford to lose it.

“I texted all of my customers and asked them to oppose the plans – mainly to save the restaurant, but also because we don’t need another supermarket around here.”

Up to six full-time and 14 part-time posts would be created in the store, should the plans go ahead, with about 10 temporary positions during



PICTURE: ALEX HANNAM

CONCERNS: Cuisine of India's Syed Rahman has been messaging customers for support

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Syed Rahman

construction. Councillors have also joined the fight and backed a petition which opposes the scheme.

Ward councillor Marie Chamberlain said: “The feeling is very strongly against the proposed Co-op and the Cuisine of India restaurant is very concerned about the

possible impact on its business.

“My opinion is there is no need for a second store on the estate.

“With the Co-op closing a food store down in the centre of Wigston I am at a loss to understand why it feels one is needed on an a small estate

with an already established store only minutes away from the one it is closing.”

The public consultation ends on October 5.

The planning reference number is: 15/00381/FUL

To make your views known, e-mail: planning@oadby-wigston.gov.uk

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WHAT DO YOU THINK OF
THE PLANS TO BUILD
A NEW CO-OP?
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