Anger as historic buildings and established shops in Solihull face the axe over Touchwood expansion.

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Touchwood’s expansion to create almost 1,000 jobs in Solihull has caused concern for those who are worried about the impact on local heritage and shops. The Touchwood shopping complex currently houses over 80 stores including John Lewis, and has been a major fixture in the Solihull area for many years.

The proposed expansion, announced earlier this year, could see the demolition of historic buildings on the site to make way for additional retail space. This has sparked a flurry of concern from local residents and business owners.

“The Touchwood expansion is concerning to say the least,” said one local resident. “We have some truly beautiful historical buildings here that are going to be destroyed to make way for more shops. This is just not acceptable.”

This sentiment was echoed by local business owners who fear losing what they consider to be a vital aspect of the Solihull community.

“I have been in business in Solihull for over 30 years,” said one local shop owner. “I have seen this area change and grow over the years, and I can’t bear the thought of losing some of the last remaining historical buildings.”

The Touchwood expansion has not been without its share of controversy. There have been protests and petitions calling for the preservation of the historic buildings, but the plans have been given the green light by the local council.

“Despite the protests, the council has given the go-ahead for the Touchwood expansion,” said a spokesperson for the local authority. “We believe that the economic benefits of the expansion will outweigh the concerns raised by local residents and business owners.”

However, not everyone is convinced by the council’s decision. “The economic arguments are weak,” said one local resident. “We could have a thriving and diverse retail area without destroying historic buildings.”

The Touchwood expansion is due to be completed within the next two years, with the historic buildings scheduled for demolition sometime in the near future.