

Development Background

The developer *Try Homes* made its first tentative proposals to Hounslow's planning department in July 2005. They were told that their proposals would constitute an over-development and that they needed to revise them. However, the designs presented at the so-called consultation in early December were virtually unchanged. It was then that residents heard for the first time that *Try Homes* was proposing an outrageous 340 housing units consisting of a mixture of tied (terraced) houses and flats.

The 'consultation' was organised by *Green Issues Communications* which is a Public Relations company employed by *Try Homes*. New consultation rules mean that the local authority is no longer required to carry out a pre-application consultation.

The *Green Issues* consultation was a farce. Residents were given virtually no background information but were asked to state their wishes for, and their fears about, the development. Thus residents were invited to discuss whether they would like Campion House to be kept or not. Residents were not told that Hounslow would not have agreed to its demolition. This discussion was thus a waste of time. It was a safe bet that most residents would want to keep the house. This was therefore just a ploy to give the impression that they were offering something which was not in their power to take away.

Green Issues did not tell us that *nearly two thirds of the Campion House site is designated as local open space*. Hounslow and London guidelines say that this should not be built on.

Green Issues claimed at the time of the 'consultation' that the development would be for 'predominantly family accommodation' because they knew we would prefer that. Now the consultation is over, they are describing the development as being for 'predominantly non-family accommodation'.

It is reasonable to conclude that the *Green Issues* consultation was a farce. The aim was not to find out what local residents wanted but to produce spurious evidence that the development had their support.

Try Homes met again with the Hounslow Planning Department with revised plans in December. Again they were told that their plans would be an over-development and that they needed to go back to the drawing board. They returned with their ideas for a meeting with the Department on January 20th but as yet we have had no news from this meeting. We will post news about that on our website as soon as it becomes available.

What can we do?

A meeting of residents wanting to help Campion Concerns in its campaign for a sensitive development which respects the local area was held on Thursday 26th January. This enabled us to double the number of people prepared to work for our campaign. We will need even more support if we are to have a chance of success, but this is a very good start.

So far we have spoken to about 90 residents in the area and they have virtually all expressed support for our work. This is solid evidence that the *Green Issues/Try Homes*' claim of residential support bears no relation to the reality. That is good, but it is not enough! To affect the outcome, and we can do so, we must be sure that the overwhelming majority of residents support our case against over-development and in favour of design which respects the area.

We are trying to call at every home in the streets near the site to ask residents their views but this is not easy. If we haven't yet heard from you it would be a great help if you would contact us.

You can contact us at the address at the bottom of the page, email us, or telephone us. Let us know what you think. If you can help us in some way then please let us know. Success depends on contacting virtually everyone. For that we need your help.

We need to extend the campaign now in various ways. It would be helpful if residents started writing to the local papers and the developers to express their concerns. We can give you contact details for the developers along with suggestions for points to make. We have written to our MP, Ann Keen, asking her for information on a number of points about building regulations. You could write to her too.

We will consider other ways to express our concerns to make it clear that we have a solid case which must be taken seriously. Suggestions for different activities were made at our recent meeting. These will be considered but we will make sure that we act only in ways that command general support.

What we stand for

Campion Concerns campaigns for a development that (1) remains within building guidelines, (2) is sensitive to the character of the area, and in particular to the neighbouring streets (3) respects the area's conservation status, (4) does not encroach on open space, (5) open space is made available for public access, (6) only proceeds on the basis of full information and proper consultation.