

# Try Homes Looking for Support

Our long-running campaign over the Campion development is about to enter a decisive phase. The current (2<sup>nd</sup>) application to develop the site was rejected by the Sustainable Development Committee (SDC) on 28<sup>th</sup> March. Try Homes have appealed to the Government Planning Inspectorate in the hope that the Inspector will agree to their application despite the clear opposition of local residents and of the local planning committees. Try Homes have now withdrawn their appeal for their first application.

Try Homes has now given residents five days' notice (including a week-end and a bank holiday) that they will hold an exhibition on the development in St Mary's Church Hall.

**Why an exhibition now?** The SDC gave clear reasons for rejecting the application. Try Homes appealed to the Inspectorate. Try Homes now say that "Following comments made by residents, the architects have suggested alterations to the proposed elevations".

The "...scale and layout of the scheme and the mix of accommodation remains unchanged." The proposals are thus still for 239 homes with the same general plan.

It is true that residents commented on the elevations of the proposed building. However, they also commented on its height, scale and layout. Try Homes have selected just that aspect of residents' concerns that they think will win enough support to convince the Inspector that there is no longer overwhelming opposition to their proposals

while at the same time building on a scale that is the real cause of the problems.

**Can exterior changes save the proposal?** We believe that the problems of this application are a consequence of its scale. While that scale

remains the same we do not see how the problems can be resolved. Try claims to have done so. Residents who can get to the exhibition will judge this for themselves. It is important to emphasise that the scale is unchanged.

If, on the other hand, it turns out that the changes no more meet residents' concerns than those produced up until

now, then it is essential that a clear message is given to the developer.

### BEWARE OF FEEDBACK FORMS!

Remember the way residents' views were processed after the last Try Homes exhibition. The results of feedback forms were used to claim that the majority supported the proposals. To avoid such spurious results it may be

better to avoid answering questions about details and just give one answer stating whether you think the changes make the application acceptable or not.

If the proposed changes do not alter main grounds for objection then it is important that we establish this beyond doubt. If that is the case then a clear record of residents' views will strengthen the

grounds for objection at the forthcoming Inspectorate Inquiry into the development.

There is no good reason to have waited until now to consult. Make sure that your views are heard.

**Try Homes Exhibition  
of 'Modified Elevations'  
St Mary's Church Hall  
Thursday 10th May  
2.00 – 8.00**

**Please make every effort to  
attend. We must give a  
clear residential response  
to the developer.**

### Analysing the feedback

Experience of Try Homes' consultations means that it is essential that we collect as much of the feedback data as we can.

We will try to make it possible to copy any feedback forms before you hand them in.

## Try Homes to Attend Meeting

At the SDC meeting that rejected the Try Homes proposals for the Campion site Councillor Barbara Reid said she would write to the developer to invite them to a meeting with councillors, planners and residents.

Councillor Reid sent the letter and Try Homes have agreed to attend. The meeting will take place on 17<sup>th</sup> May. Campion Concerns has been invited to attend.

Given that it is now clear that Try Homes intend only to make modifications of the current design we wonder about the value of such a meeting. We will discuss this with our ward councillors who make up the councillor component of the meeting. By the time of the meeting we will have seen the design modifications (at the exhibition) and will better be able to consider the issue.

What is clear is that everything about the sequence of events is wrong. Apart from the late stage in the process and the short notice of the exhibition we would like to know why the modifications were not first discussed with the planners and councillors. Including Campion Concerns would also have been a good idea.

## Planning Inquiry to be held in June

Residents in the catchment area for the development should have received notification of the Planning Inspectorate's Inquiry into the proposed development.

That Inquiry will start on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June**. It is likely that it will be held in the Hall of the **Brentford Free Church**.

We don't know how long the Inquiry will last but those with experience of these things tell us that it is unlikely to go beyond the end of the

week. The recent Inquiry into the Isleworth Court application lasted for three days. The Campion application is more substantial and has aroused far more opposition.

Campion Concerns has applied to be a full participant to the Inquiry so that we can make any points we wish to make and also so that we

receive all the papers submitted to the Inquiry by the developer.

We don't yet know about the order of events at the Inquiry. We will let you know about this as soon as we can. It is possible that the information will only be made available at the start of the procedure. In that case we will put the information on our website and into street notices.

If you are able to get along to the Inquiry then please do so. The more the Inspector can be made aware of local concern the better.

During the Inquiry, or just before/after it, the Inspector will visit the site to help evaluate the competing cases. That will be a good opportunity to show the level of concern with a polite demonstration of residential views.

Many of you will clearly not be able to participate in an event like this held on a working day but if it is at all possible that you can then look out for information about the visit close to, or during the Public Inquiry.

If, after seeing the Try Homes modifications, you still wish to stand by your objections to the application then please let the Planning Inspector know your views. You do not need to repeat what you have already

written to the Planning Department since your letter will be passed on. You can contact the Inspector on-line (details on our website) or by letter. The case reference is **2040494**. Comments have to be received by the Inspectorate by May 15<sup>th</sup> (despite what it says on their website).

### Due Process?

We have been pointing out problems with the Try Homes approach to Campion for a year and a half.

Why new drawings now with just a few days notice? Councillors haven't seen them, nor, as far as we know, have the planners. Try Homes failed to organise an exhibition for this application. Are they now trying to bypass normal procedures to get their plans through?

### Make Feedback Known

If you send comments to Mr Tilley of CgMs (the Try Homes agent) in response to the exhibition please copy in the Planning Department:

**Burnetta Van Stipriaan:  
The Planning Department  
London Borough of Hounslow  
The Civic Centre,  
Lampton Road  
Hounslow TW3 4DN**

We would appreciate it if you could copy us in as well so that we have a clear evidence when we speak on behalf of residents.