

ELR Group
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111 Haverstock Hill
London NW3 4SD

March 18th 2015

West Area Team
Regeneration and Planning
6th Floor
Camden Town Hall Extension
Argyle Street
London WC1H 8EQ

FAO: Mr Olivier Nelson

Town and Country Planning Act 1990
Application by CISCO Property Limited
England's Lane Residence, England's Lane, London, NW3 4XY

Dear Sir

Application Reference 2014/7803/P - Impact on ELR Residents

We have already petitioned the Chair of the DCC to postpone the discussion of the above planning application, currently scheduled for March 26, on the basis that there has been inadequate public consultation. We are continuing to collect signatures to that petition from local residents.

Our major concern is the impact of this plan on the lives of ELR residents. While building work is going on, the developers will continue to receive rent from Camden for the families, including young children, who will be obliged to live on a six days a week building site. Other families, in batches of up to thirty at a time, will be forced to relocate somewhere as yet unknown, for an unspecified length of time, then forced to return to the building site, while another batch of families is relocated, then returned, and so on. This plan would not be financially viable if the developers were not being permitted to use homeless families as exploitable commodities in the redevelopment of ELR.

Moving home is a major cause of stress and disruption to family life. The young families resident in ELR are already in a difficult situation. They are homeless. The nearest thing they have to a home is a hostel room. Some have been there for four or five years. Many have jobs, many children attend school or have child care arrangements.

The benefits to Camden of the planned redevelopment are dubious, given the uncertainty about future use of hostel accommodation in Camden, and the

probability of new policies coming into place following the general election. Many of the planned new units are sub-standard accommodation as regards space, privacy, outlook and daylight/sunlight, and are not what any local authority should accept.

The inhumanity of moving people hither and thither for the profit and convenience of the developers is obvious. This scheme would not be viable for the developers if they did not have carte blanche to disrupt the lives of hundreds of people.

Commodification of the vulnerable by those who find a way of exploiting them for profit is exemplified by A4E, Serta, Atos, Maximus, and many businesses, whose activities are the subject of growing media attention and local activism. This is an extract from publicity by a number of groups across London resisting such inhumane treatment.

Sweets Way Resists with the support of Jasmin Stone from the Focus E15 mums, Barnet Housing Action and Our West Hendon have begun the third political housing occupation to hit London by storm and they need our support.

We are united in our cause and clear in our message. Homes before Profit! Social Housing, Not Social Cleansing! We will protest, occupy and organise until change comes. Our West Hendon are committed to working alongside all grassroots campaign groups in Barnet and beyond to build the housing revolution that we all so desperately need."

We realise that these are not strictly planning issues. They are political and humanitarian. We are therefore copying this letter to all those concerned with the wellbeing of these vulnerable young families.

Sincerely

Eve Grace
ELR Group