

**Deputation to Camden Council Cabinet Meeting**  
**Wednesday 16th December**  
**in support of the Central Somers Town Community Investment Programme Proposals**

**by**

Esther Caplin, Chair of Newbuild, Edith Neville Primary School Governing Body Ossulston Street, Somers Town, NW1

Cathy Cornford, Director, Plot 10 Community Play Project, Chalton Street, Somers Town, NW1

Elaine Mitchell, Governor, St Aloysius Nursery, Charrington Street, Somers Town, NW1

Jim O'Shea, Headteacher, St Aloysius Junior School Aldenham Street, Somers Town, NW1

Amanda Szewyck-Radley, Headteacher, Edith Neville Primary School, Ossulston Street, Somers Town, NW1

Sally Warren, Manager, Plot 10 Community Play Project, Chalton Street, Somers Town, NW1

***Summary of deputation***

- We support Camden's proposed Central Somers Town Community Investment Programme, which provides for the essential rebuilding of three important facilities for Somers Town's children: St Aloysius Nursery School, Plot 10 Community Play Project and Edith Neville Primary School. In addition, it reconfigures public open space to make this safer and more secure for residents and stakeholders.
- These rebuilding projects have to happen: Edith Neville and Plot 10 have survived in situations where there have been increasing health and safety risks; St Aloysius Nursery has to be moved from its current site, which is anyway inadequate to its needs. Hundreds of children have spent years of their lives in inadequate environments, not fit for the standards of learning, wellbeing and physical development that we all aspire to for the future citizens of Somers Town and Camden. Somers Town children must not be condemned to further years of waiting for what is their right.
- A significant amount of private housing is needed to pay for this and for work to the public open spaces. There is simply not enough money without this source of income. Camden has had to work hard to balance stakeholder views. The proposed projects result in absolutely no loss in public open space and the overall design is of high quality. All stakeholders have made concessions, for example an agreed reduction in site area for Edith Neville and Plot 10, to allow for more housing.
- The public spaces of Somers Town have long been abused for unsocial and dangerous behaviour. This is deteriorating such that residents are afraid to spend time and feel vulnerable. Somers Town open space will further deteriorate without investment and ongoing maintenance. With this project Camden offers to turn this around now. Everyone will benefit from this -residents, families, visitors -and will be encouraged to use the open space, thus making it safer.

- Everyone has worked very hard - stakeholders, architects and Camden officers and Councillors, to produce a balanced scheme with excellent design and architecture. All Somers Town will benefit. Piecemeal rebuilding will not achieve this opportunity for high standard rebuilding. We have to grasp this moment or it will be lost or delayed too long.
- **More than 750 residents, adults, Somers Town families, as well as workers and volunteers, support this proposed development, and have signed a petition to this effect.**
- **As key stakeholders, we have shared this view with our MP Keir Starmer and our three local councillors, Roger Robinson, Paul Tomlinson and Samata Khatoon. We expect our local councillors to represent our views equally and fairly alongside any others.**