Date: 26 March 2020 From: Tali Sternfein



London Borough of Camden Regeneration & Development Supporting Communities 5 Pancras Square N1C 4AG camden.gov.uk

#### **Dear Residents**

# Maitland Park Estate – progress on site (including demolition programme) & Invitation to Construction Working Group

I am writing to update you on our progress on site, to invite you to the Maitland Park Estate Construction Working Group, and to let you know our initial thinking about the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on the programme. Our aim is to continue to keep you informed in the light of the developing situation related to the pandemic but obviously circumstances and government advice is changing day by day.

### **COVID-19 / key Government advice**

It is vital that you remain within your homes and reduce social contact as much as possible to protect your own health, and the health of the most vulnerable residents in your community. Government advice is that you should only leave your home for the following reasons:

- shopping for basic necessities, as infrequently as possible;
- one form of exercise a day for example a run, walk, or cycle alone or with members of your household:
- any medical need, to provide care or to help a vulnerable person; and
- travelling to and from work, but only where this is absolutely necessary and cannot be done from home.

We can prevent the spread of this virus if we work together. Staying at home will save lives.

For the latest information from the council on our response to the coronavirus, visit <a href="mailto:camden.gov.uk/coronavirus">camden.gov.uk/coronavirus</a> and follow our Twitter <a href="mailto:CamdenCouncil">@CamdenCouncil</a>

#### **COVID-19 / demolition programme**

While our main contractor, Bouygues UK, has now appointed Downwell as the demolition contractor I must advise that there is a delay to the programme in consideration of the evolving situation around COVID-19 and the world-wide risk.

We have been following the progress of the Coronavirus pandemic and, in discussion with our legal team and senior management, we have come to the decision that we cannot start the demolition



contract for Aspen House site at this time. One consideration obviously has been our wish to reduce disruption to residents at a time when we are all being required to stay in our homes.

We will keep monitoring the situation in order to keep unnecessary delay in demolition to a minimum, and we will write to you with any updates.

#### Other Site issues

I would also like to update you on the tragic incident that happened on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February at Aspen House. The whole of a two-bedroom flat on the second floor was destroyed by fire. As you will know, Aspen House was empty pending demolition, but despite that the London Fire Brigade confirmed that a person was found dead at the property. We are all deeply shocked and saddened by this news. The Fire Brigade and the Health and Safety Executive are still investigating the cause of the fire and they have our full support with this.

The Fire Brigade and the Health and Safety Executive have advised us that from their perspective work on site can still progress as it will not impact their investigation.

## **Construction Working Group**

In order to continue consulting effectively with residents throughout the demolition and construction process, we are currently setting up a Construction Working Group (CWG). The CWG will be made up of local stakeholders, such as Maitland Park residents and residents and business owners from the local area as well as representatives from the Contractor(s) and The London Borough of Camden.

The purpose of the group will be to provide updates on the progress of the works to representatives of the local resident community, and to hear any concerns regarding the construction works that residents raise. Where appropriate we may ask CWG members to advise us on resident matters. The draft Terms of Reference can be found via the link below where we will be uploading any documents relevant to the Maitland Park development: <a href="https://www.camden.gov.uk/maitland-park">https://www.camden.gov.uk/maitland-park</a>. If you require a paper copy of the Terms of Reference please contact me on the details above and I will arrange for one to be sent to your home. Anyone considering joining the CWG should read this document and inform us if they have any queries or concerns regarding its content.

A few residents expressed an interest in joining the CWG when the group was promoted at our public events in September 2019 in the Maitland Park Gym. We are currently looking for more residents to be involved in this, so if you would like to join the group I want to hear from you! Please contact me, Tali, using the details on the top of the letter. Please note that in order to ensure that the meetings are focused and well managed, we envisage the CWG will have a maximum limit (initially 12 residents although we will keep this under review).

# Impact of Coronavirus on the CWG and programme

In light of the concerns and risks around Coronavirus (COVID-19), we are reassessing the best way to hold the first CWG meeting, which will be a 'virtual' meeting where those who have indicated an interest in joining will be sent details to call in to a conference call using their mobile phones or landlines. The first meeting is currently scheduled to be held in April with a date to be confirmed once



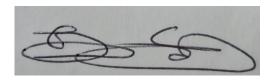
we hear from a few more interested individuals. The meeting/conference call is likely to take place in the early evening on a weekday, commencing at 5:30 or 6pm and lasting for about 1 hour.

We are keeping a close eye on the situation around coronavirus/COVID-19, the government advice being issued, and the impact this will continue to have on demolition or construction works on the scheme. As I have said above, we are conscious that this an unprecedented situation that is rapidly evolving and we will continue to listen to your views and to update you on changes to the programme of works.

If you have any queries on anything noted in this letter please do not hesitate to contact me on the details above, or Dilan on 0207 9745548 or on email: <a href="mailto:maitlandparkdevelopment@camden.gov.uk">maitlandparkdevelopment@camden.gov.uk</a>.

Finally, please do contact me to express an interest in being part of the Construction Working Group.

Yours faithfully,



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