

Sandy Lane Site Action Group

"Standing up to the Developers"

RESIDENTS VENT ANGER OVER TEDDINGTON DEVELOPMENT PLANS

Thursday, 10th May 2007

Angry Teddington and Hampton Wick residents have launched a campaign to stop Linden Homes from expanding a new housing development next to Bushy Park, saying developers have betrayed the trust of local people.

Permission was given by Richmond Council in 2005 for 198 flats, office space, a nursing home and a creche on the former Jewson/Seeboard site at Sandy Lane.

However, following a recent takeover by construction group Galliford Try, Linden Homes now want to build another 40 flats, which could mean more than 100 extra residents.

It's a bridge too far, though, for local people, who have formed the Sandy Lane Site Action Group and are determined to fight the new plans, which are expected to be submitted in June.

David Harnden, the group's chairman, said: "People round here are absolutely furious. It just goes to show why people don't trust developers.

"We weren't really in favour of the original development but in the end we hammered out an agreement with Linden Homes and feel we got the best deal for local people.

"Linden probably wouldn't have got planning permission without the support of local groups like us – and they told us they wouldn't come back later looking for a bigger development.

"Now the developers have reneged on that. All they want is to gouge more money out of the site. It's a betrayal."

Ian Jones-Healey, the group's secretary, pointed out that extra flats would mean extra pressure on local services.

"Parents across Teddington and Hampton Wick could find they can't get their children into local schools. The Council have already said they are short of 230 primary school places for this September.

"If Linden get their way, things will only get worse and local families will lose out."

The planned expansion, which has been firmly opposed by local MP Vincent Cable, is also likely to fall foul of the Teddington Society.

Brian Lane, a member of the society's planning group, said: "The latest proposals from Linden Homes are of very real concern. The group will be considering the plans as a matter of urgency."

Mr. Lane felt it likely there would be "considerable opposition" to the changes.

The Sandy Lane Site Action Group are calling on residents to find out more about more the campaign via their website – www.slsag.org.uk.

ENDS

CONTACTS:

David Harnden, chairman of Sandy Lane Site Action Group.
Tel: 8241 6062. E-mail: david.harnden@slsag.org.uk

Ian Jones-Healey, secretary of Sandy Lane Site Action Group.
Tel: 8943 3276. E-mail: ian.jones.healey@slsag.org.uk