



Sandy Lane Site Action Group

"Standing up to the Developers"

LINDEN HOMES FACE RESIDENTS PROTEST

Thursday 10th May 2007

Angry residents in southwest London have launched a campaign to stop Linden Homes from expanding a new housing development next to Royal Bushy Park, saying the developers have betrayed the trust of local people.

Permission was given by Richmond Borough Council in 2005 for 198 flats, offices, a nursing home and a creche on a brownfield site at Sandy Lane, bordering Teddington and Hampton Wick.

However, following a recent takeover by construction group Galliford Try, Linden Homes now want to build another 40 flats, adding about 100 extra residents.

It's a bridge too far for local people, who have formed the Sandy Lane Site Action Group and who 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 and 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.

"This could have been a model for co-operation between developers and local residents groups. Now it's a fiasco."

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

“Parents throughout the area 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 has been firmly opposed by local MP Vincent Cable. “Residents are, rightly, furious their trust and goodwill have been thrown back in their faces,” Dr. Cable told the Teddington and Hampton Times this week.

“I have no doubt there will be a battle over the new proposals and I shall fully support the local residents.”

Another local group is also likely to be on the warpath over the plans.

Brian Lane, a member of the Teddington 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.”

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

ENDS

PRESS CONTACTS:

David Harnden, chairman of Sandy Lane Site Action Group.
Tel: 020 - 8241 6062. E-mail: david.harnden@slsag.org.uk

Ian Jones-Healey, secretary of Sandy Lane Site Action Group.
Tel: 020 - 8943 3276. E-mail: ian.jones.healey@slsag.org.uk