



## LOCAL MP WRITES TO RESIDENTS OVER TEDDINGTON SITE CONCERNS

15 May 2007

Local MP Vincent Cable has written to thousands of Teddington residents this week over controversial plans to expand a housing development next to Bushy Park.

Linden Homes' bid to add another 40 flats to the Sandy Lane site is running into mounting opposition from local people, with Teddington and Hampton Wick councillors now giving cross-party support to a protest campaign.

In his letter detailing the wide-ranging criticism of the plans, Dr. Cable said: "The new approach is a source of serious concern to the local community.

"First, it breaks an understanding that the residents would not oppose the present, agreed and negotiated application if Linden Homes agreed not to come back for a further expansion.

"Second, the additional dwellings will add to the pressures on road and school capacity which were among the main concerns originally.

"Third, the new design will raise the height of the blocks to an extent which will significantly affect visual amenity and the views from Bushy Park.

"Lastly, Linden Homes are proposing environmental improvements to the dwellings (a woodchip central heating system and solar panels) which, while desirable in themselves, do nothing to offset the impact of the development on the surrounding area."

Dr. Cable highlighted that local residents had come together in the Sandy Lane Site Action Group ([www.slsag.org.uk](http://www.slsag.org.uk)) to oppose the new plans, which have also come under fire from local councillors.

Tony Arbour, a Conservative member of the Greater London Authority, said: "Both as ward councillor and Chairman of the GLA Planning Committee, I deplore the fact that a site which was already subject to overdevelopment may become even more overcrowded.

"Cramming more flats here will not only damage the quality of life and infrastructure for the existing residents of Hampton Wick, but will provide a sub standard environment for the new comers too.

"I shall oppose this misguided proposal."

That view was echoed by Teddington's Liberal Democrat councillor Stephen Knight.

"Local people are rightly upset that after having received planning permission for one scheme, the developer is now trying to get permission for a significantly bigger scheme, one that is both higher and more dense," Knight said.

"This is a very sensitive site, on the edge of Bushy Park, and it is vital that development respects this important setting."

Linden Homes received planning consent in November 2005 to build 198 flats on the former Seeboard/Jewson site. The company intends to apply for another 40 apartments within the next few weeks.

ENDS

#### BACKGROUND

Copies of Dr. Cable's letter are available from his constituency office, in either hard copy or Word format.

Statements in this release by Cllrs Arbour and Knight were made via-email to SLSAG. Copies available on request.

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