



HEREFORD ESTATE BULLETIN MAY 2016

Fifteen residents came to the second Community Discussion for the New Build Homes held on Saturday the 23 April 2016. The meeting was chaired by Jackie Odunoye, the Head of Service for the Council's Strategy, Regeneration, Development & Renewal Directorate, and attended by Councillor Abdul Chuna Miah and Councillor Rachel Blake, the Cabinet Member for Strategic Development.

This, our second Estate Bulletin provides a brief summary of the points covered. Your views matter to us and we hope that you will continue to be involved in the design and delivery process.

Scheme Finance/History

As part of the Council's New Build Housing Programme, housing capacity studies were carried out on various council estates in Tower Hamlets in 2012 to identify potential development sites. At its meeting of the 5th November 2014, the Council's Cabinet agreed to appoint architects to take the Hereford Estate scheme up to planning stage.

Since then there has been a lot of community consultation with local residents three consultation events have been held. As a result the design of the scheme has been changed and it continues to evolve. However, the scheme has to be financially viable.

The main issues raised by residents were:

- The lack of community consultation and public transparency in the decision-making process leading up to the selection of the Hereford Estate for housing development.
- All the housing investment was going into building new properties rather on existing homes on the estate, which has been neglected over the years.

Officers advised that refurbishment works would run alongside the new build programme.

Overall Scheme Design

Tim Bell from Bell Phillips Architects presented the latest designs. He explained that in response to residents' concerns the scale of the scheme had been scaled back from the capacity study proposal for 50-60 new homes, 48 new homes in the first design proposal, to 38 new homes. The space between the two new buildings has been increased from 24 to 40 metres to minimise the loss of views over Weavers Fields.

The main issues raised by residents were:

- The size and scale on the new development
- The roof terrace will add another floor to the new building
- The impact of overshadowing and loss of light.

It was agreed that the architects would look again at the design of the two new blocks to contain them within the building line of Kinsham House and Westhope House, and that the proposal for a





roof terrace would be dropped from the scheme. A feasibility study will be carried out on new entrances to Kinsham House.

Landscaping and Open Space

Richard Walker from Obobe Landscape Architects presented three options for the green areas.

- 1. Open design much like it is already
- 2. More enclosed design
- 3. Semi-private design.

The third option received a lot of support. It was agreed that a more detailed proposal, based upon option three, would be worked up for the next meeting.

WE WILL BE HOLDING ANOTHER COMMUNITY DISCUSSION SOON AND WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED OF WHEN IT WILL TAKE PLACE.

Please contact the Resident Liaison Officer, Laura Duncan for more information: Tel 020 7364 5015 or e-mail council.newbuild@towerhamlets.gov.uk. Our website is: http://towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgnl/housing/affrodable housing.aspx.