

**INTRODUCTORY RESPONSE TO THE PLANNING CONSULTATION
HARINGEY'S LOCAL PLAN – FEBRUARY, 2015
TOTTENHAM AREA ACTION PLAN DATED FEBRUARY, 2015**

This introductory response is to your current consultation on documents published in February 2015, in particular Haringey's Local Plan and the Tottenham Area Action Plan. (AAP)

It is regrettable that despite the written commitment to local consultation set out in the documents, genuine consultation with local residents about these life-changing plans, has been noticeably absent.

I live in Tottenham Hale ward and chair a local residents' association. There has yet to be one single public meeting organised by the local authority for people living where these plans specific to Tottenham Hale can be explained and debated. The one council forum where discussion could have taken place was cancelled. This was the Tottenham and Seven Sisters Area Forum, scheduled for March 9. The email received by residents is set out below:

Following the last meeting of the Tottenham & Seven Sisters Area Forum on the 2nd February 2015, the next scheduled meeting on the 9th March has been cancelled due to its proximity to the previous meeting and the pre-election period. The next meeting will likely be held in June and I will send you more information in due course.

An additional explanation from the chair of the forum, Cllr Lorna Reith, was that all ward councillors involved agreed the meeting should be cancelled because, in summary, they had other meetings to attend. It was not possible to organise another date prior to the general election purdah period which begins on March 30.

I find these explanations utterly unacceptable given the Council's stated commitment to community consultation, and the critical importance of these plans to our local neighbourhood. The proposals are genuinely life-changing for many people, and they will certainly change our physical environment forever. These are the Council's proposals and it is incumbent on them to provide space, opportunities and sufficiently detailed information for local people to express their views. Posting a document on the website and placing it in libraries is woefully inadequate for any consultation, but for this one in particular, as it will impact both on peoples' homes, and will cause major disruption in our lives for many years to come, and, if implemented, will completely change the character of the area.

For most people, the skimpy information provided, such as a red line on a map, or an upbeat newsletter short of serious, hard, detailed information, will not enable them to appreciate the impact of these proposed developments on their locality, their streets, or their homes. Neither will the implications for social housing be clear, which for many families in Tottenham Hale is the only realistic option for them to secure a stable home. For consultation to be meaningful, real effort, time and thought has to go into it.

At a future date when and if planning applications are brought forward, and people become aware of the detail, they will be told it is too late as the framework has, in effect, been fully and formally established. In effect lack of response will be deemed their fault. The Council is well aware of the medium and long term impact of these site proposals and its broader planning framework, but it has chosen to minimise the information, has not put effort into public meetings, and what effort has been made

has effectively been to promote the plans such as the 'information day' scheduled for March 28 after the consultation has formally closed.

The Haringey Local Plan Site Allocations DPD states that 'Other consultation events will be publicised during the consultation period', yet this has not materialised for the residents living in Tottenham Hale especially those living within or adjacent to the the many sites listed in the AAP.

Yet, in his introduction to the Tottenham Area Action Plan, Cllr Demlrci confirmed the commitment to consultation saying '*To progress the document to its next stage, we now want your views on whether you think the vision for the area is the right one, and whether the suggested policies and site proposals are a sufficient and adequate guide to development to achieve that vision*'.

Fine words, yet even the most minimal public forum – the meeting of March 9 – was cancelled. The event set for March 28, after the official consultation has closed, is described as an 'information day', which is not the same thing at all.

Zena Brabazon

22/03/2015

Chair, Dowsett Estate Residents' Association