



## HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Andy Slaughter  
Member of Parliament for Hammersmith  
Shadow Minister for Justice

Dear Resident

### **WEST KENSINGTON AND GIBBS GREEN ESTATES**

Legal action by residents has forced the Council to consult you about demolishing your home, and all 760 homes of your neighbours. The Council wants to sign a contract with a developer to sell both estates for £100m. Yet, you are not allowed to see this document, and nor am I. The Council is keeping it a secret.

This is all about making money for rich and powerful people. The developer and the Council want to build 7,500 flats in blocks up to 30 storeys as part of an £8 billion redevelopment. You will end up living on a building site for up to 20 years.

You will be forced out of your home. Tenants will be offered a flat, but the Council has not said where. There will be no new affordable rented homes, so nothing for your children. If you live in a house you could lose your garden, parking space and garage and be forced to downsize. Leaseholders and freeholders will have to move away or accept a reduced share of a replacement flat. Private tenants will be made homeless.

The Council has admitted that "the developer will not be legally bound to proceed" with building the new homes, but that the Council would get its £100 million up front. Most residents, including many who the Council claimed supported them, have realised they are being lied to. The vast majority of you are against demolition and in favour of community control.

The Council is running down the estates to try and demoralise you. The lifts are not maintained and repairs never get dealt with. I was shocked by the case of one of your elderly neighbours: he had no running water since 2010 and no heating since last summer. After I told the Council, and despite bitterly cold weather, it took another two weeks for them to fix it.

These tactics won't work. I know that nearly all of you like your homes and feel comfortable and settled on the estates among friends and neighbours you trust. Your homes are structurally sound. You have spent a lot of time and money improving your homes, making them how you like.

As your elected Member of Parliament, I am truly disgusted at the way you are being treated. The Council and the developer should be ashamed of themselves for preying on weak and vulnerable people, causing stress to individuals and anxiety in the neighbourhood. It's immoral, and makes me very angry.

You are part of a proud and decent community where people care, where families, friends and neighbours look out for one another. The Council cannot rip this apart. It cannot dictate your future, nor can the developer steal your land.

You deserve justice and respect, and you will get it. I will fight to save your homes. I shall ask the Government to allow you to take over your estates. This must be your decision.

The Council has asked you to fill out more forms. Their deadline is 12 March. Tell them what you think!



**Andy Slaughter**

**Member of Parliament for Hammersmith  
Shadow Minister for Justice**