

West Kensington & Gibbs Green TRAs
West Ken & Gibbs Green Community Homes

Send reply to:
Jonathan Rosenberg,
Community Organiser
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Melbourne Barrett
Executive Director, Housing and Regeneration
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham
Town Hall
3rd Floor, Extension,
King Street,
London W6 9JU

10 January 2012

Dear Mr Barrett

CONSULTATION ON SALE AND DEMOLITION OF THE ESTATES

The consultation the Council has issued is wrong in many respects. At this stage we want to make it plain that, given how much this affects our lives, 6 weeks is not enough time for people to respond properly.

London Council's advice is that local authority consultation should normally comply with the criteria set out in the Government's Code of Practice on Consultation (2008).
<http://www.bis.gov.uk/files/file47158.pdf>

Criterion 2 of the Code, 'Duration of consultation exercises' states: "Consultations should normally last for at least 12 weeks with consideration given to longer timescales where feasible and sensible".

Given the gravity of what is being consulted on, six weeks is plainly an insufficient and unreasonable period for people to consider properly and respond. Clearly, it should be 12 weeks or longer, especially as it is difficult to imagine a more important matter affecting people's lives.

Please will you, at the very least, extend the consultation period to 12 weeks and inform residents accordingly. Alternatively, please explain the Council's reasons for providing half of the recommended period. Is this in fact being driven by commercial considerations and timetable rather than the need to consult people properly?

Many people, especially those who are disadvantaged, do not have access to the internet and so will not be able to read copies of important documents referred to in the Information Pack. Therefore, we request you send printed copies of the Equalities Impact Analysis, Economic Appraisal and Conditional Land Sale Agreement to all residents as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Sally Taylor, Chair West Kensington Estate TRA

Diana Belshaw, Chair Gibbs Green & Dieppe Close TRA

Shirley Wiggins, Chair West Ken & Gibbs Green Community Homes