## London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

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3<sup>rd</sup> February 2012

Ms Taylor, Chair of West Kensington Estate TRA Ms Belshaw, Chair of Gibbs Green & Dieppe Close TRA c/o Sally Taylor Flat 7, 231 North End Road W14 9UQ

Dear Ms Taylor and Ms Belshaw

Thank you for your letter of 10 January 2012.

As regards the timeframe for the consultation, the Council has not explicitly adopted the Government's Code of Practice to which you refer and so, as set at page 5 of that Code of Practice, the Council is not bound by it. What is fair and appropriate depends on all the circumstances.

In the present case, the consultation materials are (and were specifically designed to be) readily digestible, and reasonably concise. In addition, the Council has in any event been consulting and engaging with residents of the Estates extensively since 2008. For example:

- Two dedicated Regeneration Officers have been in post since late 2009 to be points of contact for residents. These Officers have completed numerous house visits, drop-in sessions and surgeries.
- Regular newsletters have been distributed to every household in the Estates to provide updates.
- The Council has maintained a dedicated West Kensington and Gibbs Green website (www.lbhf.gov.uk/westken) which has been updated with relevant information and documents relating to the potential redevelopment project.
- At key points in the engagement process, the Council has held drop-in sessions and surgeries at the Holiday Inn Express on North End Road and at the West Kensington and Gibbs Green Tenant Halls. At these events, Council Officers have been available to discuss regeneration issues with residents, answer questions and listen to residents' concerns about and aspirations for the Estates.

Thus, the consultation does not raise issues that are wholly new to residents. I also note that the arrangements for the s. 105 consultation were advertised on the West Kensington and Gibbs Green webpage two weeks before the consultation process began.

I have written to residents with some further information confirming that the deadline for the consultation is being extended to Monday 12 March 2012. I attach a copy of his letter.

In the circumstances, the Council considers that the new consultation period provides residents with sufficient time to make their views known to the Council.

The Council also does not propose to send out further documentation for the purposes of the consultation. The draft Equality Impact Assessment and Economic Appraisal are available on the internet, should any resident wish to read them. Residents who want to read these more detailed documents but who are unable to access the internet can contact Phil Morris or Sarah Lovell (whose numbers are on the back page of the Consultation Pack) and ask for copies to be posted to them.

Page 6 of the Information Pack summarises the key aspects of the proposed Conditional Land Sale Agreement for the purposes of the consultation, and Mr Barrett's letter contains further information in this regard. The precise terms of the proposed Agreement are still being negotiated, and are in any event confidential. They therefore will not be shared with residents as part of the consultation.

Yours sincerely,

Melbourne Barrett

**Executive Director of Housing and Regeneration**