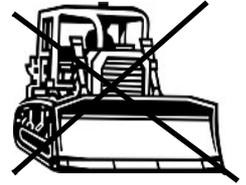




# KEEP OSTERLEY GREEN!

For the protection of our green spaces & appropriate school development



Newsletter No.1, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2015

In the next 2-3 years, we may find as many as four large, new schools in Osterley, built on green land for 4000 pupils: (1) The Nishkam School for 1500 pupils on the site of the old Conquest Club between Syon Lane and Wood Lane; (2) one on the Grasshoppers site on MacFarlane Lane for 1400 pupils; (3) Sky Academy, sponsored by BSKyB for 800 pupils; (4) possibly another school between Wyevale Garden Centre and Wyke Green Golf Club.

**The consequences will be profound and far reaching:** traffic gridlock on Wood Lane, Jersey Road, Windmill Lane, Syon Lane and the A4. Just think of the problems caused by the electricity mains renewal.

We believe the Nishkam traffic estimates are at least 75% too low. We should expect at least 1500 additional round-trip car journeys; multiple bus-runs from Osterley station via Jersey Road. The use of satellite car parks would greatly increase pedestrian movement and would require many road crossings by children.

Remember, these estimates exclude the Sky Academy and the proposed schools on the current Grasshoppers and Wyevale sites respectively.

**The Conquest Club site is Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) which is supposed to be protected from building development.** Our green spaces are part of 'London's lungs'. They are a precious natural resource and must be preserved for future generations.

The *Educational Funding Agency* (EFA) has spent public money acquiring the land without consulting residents. The Council appears to have given its prior approval, again with no consultation. We must insist on due process, that planning policy is properly observed and that residents are fully consulted.

## Residents get active

When it became clear that Nishkam intended to build a large school on the Conquest MOL a group of residents got together to discuss the situation. We decided that there are very good grounds for opposing this proposal and have formed the **Keep Osterley Green (KOG)** residents' group. Our core aims are:

- Preserving the current green spaces in Osterley for future generations.
- To work with the Council and free school trusts to identify alternative more suitable sites for schools.
- Ensuring transparent dialogue/partnership with Hounslow Council, EFA and free school trusts.
- Delivering win-win outcomes for all.

**We hope that you agree and join us.**

We have absolutely no religious or ethnic affiliations and we welcome all residents to join us.

## Plans about to be submitted

The plans for the Nishkam School are expected to be submitted later this month. Making well-informed objections will require us to work fast. A good team has been formed but we need more help.

We are reading the relevant planning documents to establish solid grounds for our objections.

**We fully accept the need to provide new school places in Hounslow**, but we do not believe the choice of this site can be justified in any way.

This site is inappropriate for a school:

- The proposed site is Metropolitan Open Land and should be protected;
- "Exceptional circumstances" have not been shown;
- The site has the lowest level of public transport accessibility (PTAL 1a) – the consequential rise in bus and car usage would lead to unacceptable congestion, noise, pollution and safety issues;
- If this development goes ahead then it is virtually certain that it will open the way for developments (under discussion) on adjacent open space;
- The school would clearly serve a very large catchment area beyond Hounslow and therefore would not be justified in terms of local school needs;
- The site is not in the Council's Forward Plan.

## The Council must protect open space

Hitherto, Hounslow Council has been a stalwart defender of MOL, but its current apparent disdain of green space spells imminent danger.

There are numerous appropriate brownfield sites in the borough. The Council has provided forward planning information for this purpose. Its plans for 15 years identifies many possible educational sites but the Conquest site is not among them.

### Will you help us?

The EFA and Nishkam would like us to think that the proposal is a "done deal". We don't agree but opposing the proposal will be hard. We will need:

- (1) Newsletter delivery.
- (2) Letter writers.
- (3) Document authors and readers.
- (4) Any other expertise you can offer.

Please contact us if you would like to help (contact details are at the bottom of the page).