

# The story so far & things residents can do

- Nishkam made a public declaration some time ago - in 2013 - of its intention to build a permanent school on a site in Osterley.
- In November 2014 an article appeared in the Hounslow Chronicle - the cat was out of the bag - that NST had agreed with LBH that there was no need for an environmental site impact assessment if a school were to be built on the Conquest Club site. In an article in the Hounslow Chronicle NST denied that the site had been selected and commented that a number of sites were under consideration.
- The NST argued, based upon manifestly misleading and inaccurate statements, that the environmental impact assessment was not necessary. To our utter consternation the LBH incorrectly agreed.
- LBH had run a sequential site assessment (SSA) to identify potential school sites in the borough and the Conquest Club was not identified as one i.e. remained Metropolitan Open Land (MOL). However, LBH then worked with Nishkam to agree what we believe to be a contrived protocol and this subsequent SSA identified the Conquest Club as the only site for the school!
- In April 2015 hoardings were placed around the site boundary and were subsequently deemed illegal and removed. As a result of residents' enquiries it became clear that the EFA had purchased the site for NST.
- After multiple requests to the EFA to clarify what was going on we finally learnt that the EFA and NST had been working closely and that the LBH had provided a "letter of comfort" i.e. an IMPLICIT APPROVAL TO BUILD A SCHOOL without any observation of due consultation process and excluding all residents.
- Residents then approached our local MP who, in turn, requested NST to come clean.
- Subsequently, a public exhibition was hurriedly arranged and held early May 2015 to display a scale model and detailed drawings which confirmed that the NST statement in November 2014 was a complete deception. Only a handful of residents were invited to the exhibition whilst a large number of supporters were shipped in from the surrounding areas to fill in feedback forms in support.
- No consideration has been given to the already severe traffic problems in the area and the horrendous far-reaching impact of adding an additional 1500 car journeys per day. LBH has allowed developers to make millions of pounds in profit via the creation of additional housing that has consequently resulted in a shortfall of school places. This demonstrates an utter lack of strategic planning, panic and is resulting in the loss of our precious MOL.
- LBH has conducted, again behind closed doors, a review of MOL and unilaterally decided to sacrifice big chunks of it (as disclosed at the Floreat School meeting in May 2015. In addition, it is in the process of amending the Local Plan to allow reclassification of MOL and publication of the revised plan will precisely coincide with the Planning Committee date set to consider the NST planning application. The proposed amendments to the Plan do not disclose how residents will be consulted on any resulting proposals.

## Things for residents to do

The importance of writing individual letters was emphasised. We agreed that all present would write letters and ask their neighbours to do the same. When we have the papers of the planning submission for the school we will analyse them and suggest ways in which they can be opposed in strict planning terms. In the mean time you could write to voice your concerns about the proposal to:

- (1) MP, Ruth Cadbury MP, [ruth@ruthcadbury.org.uk](mailto:ruth@ruthcadbury.org.uk);
- (2) Our ward councillors: (1) Tony Louki ([tony.louki@hounslow.gov.uk](mailto:tony.louki@hounslow.gov.uk)), (2) Shiela O'Reilly ([sheila.o'reilly@hounslow.gov.uk](mailto:sheila.o'reilly@hounslow.gov.uk)) (3) Peter De Vic Carey ([peter.carey@hounslow.gov.uk](mailto:peter.carey@hounslow.gov.uk));
- (3) The planning officer responsible for the submission ([stephen.hissett@hounslow.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.hissett@hounslow.gov.uk));
- (4) Mayor of London, Boris Johnson [mayor@london.gov.uk](mailto:mayor@london.gov.uk)

Reference Nos for the submission: **System reference P/2015/2516** and **Planning Reference: 01106/152/P3**

Please include your home address in all correspondence including emails.

We will suggest planning arguments against the submission on this website very soon. These will also be in a forthcoming newsletters. Time is tight but we will do it. **Keep a look out for our materials.**