



The Counties Residents' Association

Protecting the interests of the community

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Mr Chris Carter
Editor
The Ilford Recorder
539 High Road
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Dear Mr Carter,

I would be grateful if you could publish the following letter:

Councillor Prince's letter of 16 August has raised concerns with our residents. Most uneasiness revolves around the criteria on which councillors make decisions on planning applications. While councillors need to be aware of the LDF's stipulations and the Council's budget, these must not be put before the wishes of local residents. A councillor's main responsibility is to work on behalf of his or her local community – this is democracy.

The views of residents must be taken account: we have raised 400 signatures supporting a petition against flats being built on the house and garden of Chepstow, 49 Leicester Road, Wanstead. Surely this must be taken into account when considering the developer's planning application?

Local opinion was a key factor in the government inspector's rejection of a planning appeal to demolish an adjacent property, 47 Leicester Road, and replace it with 8 flats. His letter states: "The character of the estate is clearly well regarded by local residents as evidenced by the volume of comments made on this proposal." If he can take local views into account, why can't our Council?



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To make matters worse, the Planning Department is very poor at communication. Getting information is like getting blood out of a stone. We have had to resort to the Freedom of Information Act to obtain details of how the building which is being proposed to take place on the Chepstow site will affect the 16 trees with preservation orders on them. Will Mr Dorfman, the Head of Planning and Regeneration, be able to fill in this black hole?

Yours sincerely,

HELEN E ZAMMETT
Chairman