

# Controversial homes bid set for approval

DEVELOPERS bidding to build three controversial apartment blocks in Wanstead will find out tonight (Thursday) if their plans have been successful.

Telford Homes Plc hopes to develop the Chepstow site in Leicester Road, creating six, four bedroom semi-detached houses and three, three storey apartment blocks, containing a total of 17, three bedroom flats and one, two bedroom flat.

The plans have been opposed by the Counties Residents Association (CRA) and the Wanstead Society, as well as Labour MP Harry Cohen.

Helen Zammett, chairman of CRA, said: "The greatest shortage is for family houses

with three or more bedrooms, not flats.

"The council's own report on housing showed that, as well as a questionnaire sent to residents."

Other concerns include the size and scale of the buildings, which campaigners say will dominate the street scene, the "unattractive" mix of styles of the buildings, and fears that the develop-

ment will ruin the character of the area.

The houses would be built in a traditional style along Gloucester Road, two of the apartment blocks would be a contemporary art deco style with flat roofs.

A previous application to build six houses and 18 flats was refused in December 2007 due to their unacceptable quality of design and because they

were not deemed affordable.

Telford Homes has warned it will appeal and seek costs if the latest application is not approved.

The regulatory committee will make the decision at Redbridge Town Hall, High Road, Ilford, after the council's planning department recommended approval.