

# Campaigners move a step closer to victory

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TWO historic housing estates are a step closer to being granted full conservation status.

The council's area one committee has voted in favour of the idea, and now all it needs is ratifying by the cabinet.

The news has delighted campaigners fighting to protect the Counties and Grove Estates in Wanstead against new developments, and they have urged Cllr Peter Goody to support them.

Mr Goody, cabinet member for planning and regeneration, also sits on the area one committee but abstained from voting on the issue.

However, as a decision is due to be made over a controversial new housing development, they need him to side with them.

Counties Residents' Association (CRA) chairwoman Helen Zammett has been battling for conservation status for the two estates since 2005 and, if it is granted, hopes it will prevent Telford Homes building six



**Campaigners in front of the demolition site at the former Chepstow House, in Leicester road, Wanstead (EL9381-2)**

new houses and 18 flats on the site of the former Chepstow House in Leicester Road.

She said: "This prolonged procedure has meant that since losing the public inquiry in March 2008, Telford has had the opportunity to submit a second planning application which is as bad, if not worse than the first application.

"Feelings are running high, as residents fear that

any further damage to their area which this proposed development would cause, will undoubtedly ruin one of the most charming areas of Wanstead.

"We are delighted by the councillors support and that they increased the size of the area from the officers' recommendations, because areas on the border of the conservation area are going to be particularly vulnerable to development."

The Character Appraisal report found that Grosvenor Road and parts of the Counties Estate provide a well preserved area of late Victorian and Edwardian suburban housing that represents an important stage in the development of Wanstead, from a country village to a middle class London suburb.

Planning officers originally only recommended three of the six zones under consideration to gain conservation status but area one councillors decided to go further by including zones one to five, only leaving out zone six – the southernmost section of Nutter Lane and Elm Hall Gardens.

Snaresbrook ward councillor Sue Nolan said: "The conservation survey received 24 per cent response from residents which is an outstanding return.

"It just shows the strength of feeling in the area."

Cllr Goody told the Guardian: "The committee and the Conservation Advisory Panel have both asked for a wider area to be designated and I will gladly look at that."