

Historic estate is declared 'at risk'

By **CHARLIE CAMPBELL**

ccampbell@london.newsquest.co.uk

LESS than three months after being granted conservation status, the historic Wanstead Grove housing estate has already been declared 'at risk' by English Heritage.

The affluent area, bejeweled by Edwardian houses, is one of many suffering from gradual deterioration as plastic windows, poorly maintained roads, unsightly satellite dishes and unsympathetic extensions creep in.

The Counties Residents' Association (CRA) and Wanstead Society successfully campaigned for conservation status after seeing a growing number of developers covet large properties for space to build flats.

CRA chairwoman Helen Zammatt said: "The area is definitely damaged as our pavements are a mess and our street lighting looks like something out of War of the Worlds when it should be in keeping with the surroundings like in South Woodford's George Lane.

"We want to produce a



Left to right, Malcolm Dowers, Helen Zammatt and Phillip Carnelley of the Counties Residents' Association with their successful conservation status application (EL1590-40004)

booklet for our residents to explain what conservation status means and what they can and can't do.

"Conservation status is not an absolute defence but it's the best defence we have and we need the commitment of the community to make it work."

English Heritage is launching a Conservation

Areas at Risk campaign to encourage local residents, local groups and councils to work together to protect the unique character and appearance of special places under threat.

But Wanstead Grove is not the only

'at risk' area in the borough with Woodford Bridge also included within the 81-

strong London list.

Earlier this month an investigation was launched when a Victorian shop in Wanstead High Street, which formerly housed Truffles chocolate shop, was destroyed without planning permission.

The Cottage, in Broomhill Walk, Woodford Green, and Little Monkham, in nearby Monkham Lane, are both examples of historic buildings within conservation areas that have been under threat from developers in recent months.

Nigel Barker is head of regional partnership for London at English Heritage.

He said: "Wanstead is a modest 'arts and crafts' inspired place which is not as grand as some, but is still a coherent representation of the period.

"We are particularly concerned about developers demolishing houses for blocks of flats."

● Visit english-heritage.org.uk/conservation-areas for more information including how to get involved with the campaign.