

## **Statement from the Campden Hill Residents Association**

### **Holland Park School**

19 February 2008

### ***Trophy School project: Costs Spiral to pay for planning chaos and not one new classroom to show for it.***

David White, Chairman of the Campden Hill Residents Association said:

### **Holland Park School**

“We are disappointed beyond belief by the sham consultation on the new application. Nothing has changed, as one-quarter of the school site is still being sold off for private housing, to pay for years of neglect of the school. The design of the school is totally unchanged and there is desperate cramming in of hard surface play space into the shrinking site.

“All that has happened is that the costs have spiralled yet again, more planning fees will be voted through this week and not one new classroom to show for it after four years and over £5.7 million.

“How long can this go on with no guarantee of consent for a new school at the end once the London Mayor and the Government have had their say? Added to this, the risk grows by the day that the value of the land they want to dispose of may collapse, sinking the dream and leaving council tax payers and children with nothing.

“We cannot see how this plan can possibly be in the public interest, either to meet the need for meaningful community sports use as demanded by Sport England, or for the educational and social benefit of the school children taken in the round. Who

wants to send their children to a school that's just lost a whopping one-third of its land to a property developer, just so that the Council can indulge in an urban legacy project and grand trophy architecture?

"Its time for the Royal Borough to wake up to the reality of 2008, rather than the situation in 2004 when they started on this road, and do what every other education authority is now doing. This is to tap into the once-in-a-generation pot of government capital funding now available for rebuilding the nation's primary and secondary schools and to make this work.