

*Campden Hill Residents' Association  
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Councillor Merrick Cockell  
Leader of the Council  
Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea  
The Town Hall  
Hornton Street  
London W8 7NX

10 January 2008

Dear Cllr Cockell,

**LEA Consultation on a new Holland Park School redevelopment proposal**

Further to my meeting before Christmas with Mrs Anne Marie Carrie, your Director of Family and Children's Services, and her written response dated 22 December, I must write to you directly to convey the grave concerns of my Committee about the proposed course of action and methodology now indicated for consulting the community about a possible new proposal for redeveloping the Holland Park School site.

While we would in principle be prepared to enter into a period of consultation with you as the Local Education Authority (LEA), the suggestion of one meeting with Aedas Architects to be presented with the revised proposals for the school site is wholly inadequate.

This concern is especially grounded in the record of the Royal Borough's processing of the previous school proposals, both in consulting the community about the formation of the LEA's proposals and then in the determining role as Local Planning Authority. We had thought, seemingly incorrectly, that your statement before Christmas presaged a fresh start for this process with a new application rather than a short-cut to a revival of the old proposals with a modest tweak on paper.

The offer of a single meeting in late January or early February is not a satisfactory approach and we doubt this would meet the terms of current statutory guidelines or the various codes of best practice on consultation for planning applicants, or indeed the spirit of the vision as set out on the opening page of the Council's own Statement of Community Involvement, only published in December 2007. Surely you would expect better were it an external application from a developer?

As the LEA is apparently preparing an application for submission at some as yet undisclosed time in the Spring (which we take to be from April onwards) we would wish to have sight of a detailed statement setting out the route map for your LEA's re-engagement with the community on this important matter, spelling out how it is you

intend to conduct a consultation process over the coming months with all relevant parties. After that period of time a further report should be made public setting out the results of this consultation and its relationship to the considered application then submitted to the Local Planning Authority (LPA).

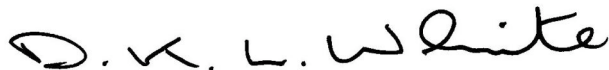
There are numerous unresolved issues of detail to be discussed with a range of stakeholders concerning the educational needs of the school, the views of parents and prospective parents resident in the Borough, the potential transitional disruption to pupils and their education, the current funding situation and the market risks now apparent since last August, alternative routes open to the authority including the Building Schools for the Future funding stream, the potential impact on council tax payers from the funding decisions made, the continuing loss of open space, the off-site affordable housing issues, and finally the design and built environment matters.

As a leading residents group within the Borough we have an interest in the majority of the issues highlighted above and share those interests with a wider population group from across the Borough, and with additional statutory and non-statutory consultees from beyond the confines of the Royal Borough.

As a significant statutory public body, I am sure that you will want to be seen to be progressing your proposed planning application in the correct manner. This is even more important given the perceived link (in the public mind) between the functions of the LEA and the LPA and the need for the Royal Borough to ensure the two functions are kept distinct.

I look forward to your further clarification of your intentions so that we can all proceed in working together on a satisfactory basis during the course of the coming year.

Yours sincerely,



David White  
Chairman

c.c. All Members of the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea.

Derek Myers, Town Clerk & Chief Executive, Royal Borough  
of Kensington & Chelsea

Anne Marie Carrie, Executive Director for Family and Children's Services

Sir John Baker, Chairman of Holland Park School Governing Body

Robin Price, Chairman, Kensington Society

David Le Lay, Chairman, Chelsea Society

Rt Hon Sir Malcolm Rifkind QC MP (Kensington & Chelsea)

Karen Buck MP (Regent's Park & Kensington North)

Angie Bray, AM (West Central Constituency, Greater London Authority)

Ken Livingstone, Mayor of London

Nicky Gavron, Deputy Mayor, Greater London Authority

Sean Holt, London Region Director, Sport England

Baroness Kay Andrews, OBE, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, DCLG

Jim Knight, Minister of State for Schools, Department for Children, Schools & Families