

CAMPDEN HILL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

MEDIA RELEASE

WILL BORIS JOHNSON HONOUR PLAYING FIELD PROMISES IN HIS FIRST BIG LONDON SELL OFF TEST?

The children of Holland Park School are facing the loss of their playing field after Kensington & Chelsea council gave the go ahead for developers to turn the site into luxury flats last week. Now local people are pinning their hopes on an eleventh hour appeal to new London Mayor Boris Johnson to step in to save the school site.

The new hope for local families comes after Boris Johnson wrote in this week's *Daily Telegraph* about the dire state of sport in this country. In his article he said: "We should summon up our courage and tell our ballooning children to put down their beastly PlayStations and go and play outside. We should stop the sale of school playing fields."

These sentiments come just weeks after similar comments at his first Mayor's Question Time when he stated he was worried that playing fields were being left to 'rack and ruin' so that developers could more easily gain permission to build on the sites.

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

"We are placing our hopes on the Mayor stepping in to protect this valuable inner London playing field space from being turned into luxury flats. To have any credibility in what he says, Mayor Johnson must implement his pledge to stop school playing fields being sold off. Otherwise his words are an empty gesture."

ENDS

Notes

1. Boris Johnson's article (*'If sitting on our backsides were a sport, we'd be world champions'*, *Daily Telegraph*, 1 July 2008) can be accessed at <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/main.jhtml?view=DETAILS&grid=A1YourView&xml=/opinion/2008/07/01/do0101.xml>

2. Last Thursday (26 June) the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea's planning committee gave approval to the widely criticised proposal to re-develop Holland Park School. Opponents of the scheme include veteran politicians Sir Tim Sainsbury and the Rt. Hon Tony Benn.

3. For further information please call Nick Sutcliffe on 07804 623 396 or David White on 020 7229 5684.