
Dear Sirs,

My husband and I live at number 2A Fords Grove, Winchmore Hill, London N21 3DN. We had not heard until today about the proposed plans to build flats on Fords Grove Car Park. How can that be?

In normal planning applications, contact is usually made with the neighbours to inform them of such applications, be it for an extension or some other 'improvement', yet even with our garden wall being the wall that divides our property from the car-park, we have heard nothing in respect of the proposed development.

I imagine that after reading this, your officers will say something to the effect that 'it's all available on the website', or some such. However, there are a lot of elderly people (us included) who live in the vicinity of this proposed development, that do not have access to or, indeed, the ability to access this. Indeed, it should not be necessary for us and them to have to do so, if the Council acted in a transparent manner and did not proceed by 'stealth', which appears to have happened in this case.

The impact on our property will be more than for most in the area, yet the council has not had the courtesy even to contact us. We have had no literature delivered by way of leaflets, etc. and, certainly, no official communication from the Council via post or other normal channels.

In respect of other local developments, we received official documentation from the Council regarding the development of Capitol House; the building which has become number 1 Fords Grove; the proposed car wash development on the Scouts/Winchmore Hill Cricket Ground (twice) and the further development of number 2 Farm Road, yet **nothing** regarding the proposed development of the land that abuts our property. How, then, can it be that the Council is able to propose this development without observing these quite normal procedures?

When the Council were proposing the cycle lane through the area, we had an abundance of information and documentation to encourage us to support this and to tell us what was going on.

On that subject, an integral part of the plan locally, i.e. the cycle lane, was the provision of a number of free parking spaces and disabled parking in the Fords Grove Car-Park. There was much emphasis put on this to persuade the public (including us) that the plan was a good one to ensure that local residents and businesses would not be impacted adversely. However, five years later, all that is forgotten, and the agreement apparently rescinded by

the Council, in order to build 24 flats on that same car-park.

Building 24 flats on the car-park is hardly going to solve the apparent housing crisis in the borough, however, the impact of removing this facility will be devastating to the locality.

Fords Grove and Farm Road would not be able to sustain the additional parking which would arise as a result of the removal of the car-park or the increase in traffic generated.

We both therefore most vehemently oppose this application and would appreciate our opposition be recorded accordingly.