

FROM THE NOTTING BARNES WARD COUNCILLORS

Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, The Town Hall, Kensington, London W8 7NX

**PUBLIC MEETING FOR RESIDENTS OF
LANCASTER WEST AND NEARBY ESTATES**

Monday 20 September 2010

**7.00 p.m. in St. Clement's Church, Treadgold Street, London W11
(opposite the southern tip of Barandon Walk)**

Some of you may know that the Council is to build a new secondary school (academy) for North Kensington on Lancaster West estate beside Grenfell Tower and that it also wishes to redevelop the Leisure Centre and provide some new housing, possibly behind Verity Close.

There was considerable confusion about the arrangements for the consultation meetings because the contractors hired by the Council did not deliver any leaflets to Grenfell Tower – the building that will be most affected by these plans. The Notting Barnes ward councillors are calling this meeting so that senior Council officers can explain the reasons behind these decisions and you can have the opportunity to ask questions and comment on the proposals. You may have seen a sketch of what the area could look like on the front cover of the recent *Borough Newsletter* and copies of the development plan will be available at the meeting. The Council's aim is to have the new Academy ready for its first pupils in September 2014.

The Council has just opened the new Chelsea Academy in Lots Road. Families with young children who are coming up for secondary transfer and will need a local school will be given the opportunity to visit Chelsea Academy in the near future to see the very high quality facilities that will also be available in the Kensington Academy.

We are aware that residents have a number of concerns about these plans and your councillors also have concerns. In addition, we are not convinced that the plan set out in the *Borough Newsletter* is the best option. Residents and local councillors were not consulted on the options that were considered and this option was in fact chosen *before* the meeting at the Leisure Centre, although we were not told that at the time.

There is no doubt that the Academy is desperately needed. North Kensington children should not have to travel long distances to other boroughs to receive an inferior education. The Leisure Centre also needs to be re-built – but it does not have to be built on this site. And any new houses should not be for private sale when so many local families are in urgent need of affordable housing. These latter points are, of course, political – and the officers at the meeting will not be able to comment on them. It is however open to your councillors to highlight these and other contentious issues.

If you are unable to attend this meeting but wish to receive updates about what is happening, please send an e-mail to Cllr.Blakeman@rbkc.gov.uk or leave a message for the Notting Barnes councillors on [REDACTED] and we will make sure you are kept informed. There will also be a number of consultation meetings on the detailed plans in the coming months.

Councillors Robert Atkinson, Judith Blakeman and Todd Foreman
Notting Barnes Ward