

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

23rd JANUARY 2015

Campaigners say Council and Redrow Playing Fast and Loose over Sefton Park Meadows Planning Application

Save Sefton Park Meadows supporters are accusing the Council and Redrow NW of deliberately concealing details of the housing development they want to build on the heritage openspace alongside the Grade 1 designated area of Sefton Park.

A full planning application was posted online on Thursday 15th January on the Council's official Planning Explorer website with no prior notice to local councillors or the campaign group, despite repeated requests for information. All the planning documents and site notices posted up today 22nd January and formal consultation letters refer to Sefton Park Meadows as 'Land off Park Avenue, Mossley Hill, Liverpool L17', which campaigners say is misleading when the site is commonly known locally, nationally and now internationally due to recent publicity as Sefton Park Meadows. Some people will not be aware that the planning application for 'Land off Park Avenue' is actually the Redrow application for Sefton Park Meadows. Even more so when most maps show the site is actually in the L18 area, not as stated in the planning application as in L17. Chair of Save Sefton Park Meadows Ken Aspinall has today written to English Heritage, Natural England and the Garden History Society who are due to receive formal consultation letters for their comments, to formally advise them that this application is for development on Sefton Park Meadows.

Ken commented, 'The Planning Application runs to over 70 complex documents, with the main design plans and important housing development details hidden away in 'Project Packs' - easily overlooked, and described by an experienced planning consultant as 'highly unusual'.

Consultation letters dated 19th January and supposed to go out to over 750 immediately local residents, local councillors and agencies such as English Heritage, the Garden History Society and Natural England, are yet to be received by any of these groups, but their comments have to be received within three weeks of this letter's date, by 9th February. None of the online documents are to be made available at the Council offices or any other venue for people without internet access to look over, prejudicing comments by many people.

Ken Aspinall is one of the local residents yet to receive his consultation letter, and called this a "total sham and a deliberate tactic to reduce the time local people and campaigners have to make their legitimate objections to this tragic decision by Liverpool's Mayor".

'We were told by the council and Joe Anderson throughout this rip off sale of valuable historic Sefton Parklands greenspace that all of our objections would be listened to at planning stage. Now local people are being given less than three weeks to digest and comment on over 70 complex planning documents, designs, environment and heritage assessments - all prepared over a year by expensive Redrow consultants. This sell off has never ever looked like fair play".

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The Save the Meadows campaign group have fundraised with local people to pay for a professional planning consultant to assess Redrow's application and prepare a strong report to oppose the housing development. They are also reviewing the Redrow online documents and posting information on their website and facebook to support people who want to object. Already they have revealed that 27 trees - 6 of them the highest rated Category A - are to be felled and the Meadows will lose the last remnants of the original Victorian lime avenue. The greatest impact of tree losses will be along Park Avenue where 13 Caucasian limes and 5 small leaved lime will be removed. This will dramatically alter its greenspace appearance particularly in the summer months due to their very dense canopies that extend to ground level.

A Public Notice for the Redrow Planning Application will be published in the Liverpool Echo Business Section on 29th January, giving three weeks to 19th February for comments.

For more information contact Ken Aspinall, Chair Save Sefton Park Meadows campaign on 07759 421380

More information

<http://saveseftonparkmeadows>

www.facebook.com/saveseftonparkmeadows