

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

28th JANUARY 2015

Council Publishes Redrow's Planning Application for Executive Houses on Sefton Park Meadows

Liverpool City Council is to publish in the Liverpool Echo (Thurs 29th January) the long awaited Public Notice of a full planning application to build houses on Sefton Park Meadows submitted by Redrow NW. Appearing in the Echo's Business Pages, this Notice will refer to 'Land at Park Avenue, Mossley Hill L17' and not Sefton Park Meadows, and will give local people and agencies including English Heritage and the Garden History Society only three weeks until February 19th to put in their objections and comments. Redrow's mammoth application, which stretches to 70 documents of detailed sites plans, and professional consultants reports, including its heritage significance and tree removal plans, is only available online.

Save Sefton Park Meadows Campaign are accusing the Council and Redrow NW of deliberately concealing details of this housing development on heritage openspace alongside the Grade 1 designated area of Sefton Park.

Chair of Save Sefton Park Meadows campaign Ken Aspinall stated, "We were told by the council and Joe Anderson throughout 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 by expensive Redrow consultants over the last year. This sell off has never ever looked like fair play".

The full planning application was published online on the Council's official Planning Explorer website with no prior notice to local councillors or the campaign group, despite repeated requests for information. The proposed removal of a quarter of the trees on the Meadows provoked immediate new protests. These documents, the new Public Notice and formal consultation letters also refer to the 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 as Sefton Park Meadows.

Chair of the campaign group Ken Aspinall says, "Local people will not be aware that this new Public Notice in the Echo and the online planning application called 'Land off Park Avenue' is actually the Redrow application for Sefton Park Meadows. Ken has written to groups listed as being consulted to formally advise them that this application is for development on the Meadows. The Save Sefton Park Meadows group believes this is a deliberate tactic to reduce the objections by local people and campaigners to stop this decision by Mayor Joe Anderson.

Similarly, the Council has delivered consultation letters to approximately 750 local properties in a small area in the Aigburth Vale neighbourhood closest to the Meadows. However, in September 2104 ahead of the Redrow public consultation exhibition, Redrow delivered leaflets to over 5,000 properties in the local area to inform residents that the exhibition was taking place. A vast difference in the number of local people being directly made aware by Liverpool City Council that the Redrow planning application has been submitted and the deadline for people to submit comments.

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Ken also commented, 'The Planning Application is very complex, 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'.' None of these documents are to be printed out and made available at the Council offices" he goes on, "people can't be expected to print these all themselves. With shorter Library opening hours people without internet access will find these almost impossible to look over, prejudicing comments by many people."

Campaigners have already put ribbons and 'Help Me' notices on the 27 trees that Redrow plan to remove. The Save the Meadows campaign group has fundraised 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 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 green space appearance particularly in the summer months due to their very dense canopies that extend to ground level.

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

Image of new Site Notices on Sefton Park Meadows attached.

More information

<http://saveseftonparkmeadows>

www.facebook.com/saveseftonparkmeadows