

# **SAVE WEMBLEY FROM TOWER BLOCKS BLIGHT**

## **This Council notes:**

1. That it is widely recognised that residential tower blocks have failed.
2. Tower blocks are being pulled down throughout Britain and in many parts of Brent.
3. That local people prefer to live in low-rise homes with gardens and open space.
4. That Wembley residents do not want their area taken over by massive Tower Blocks that are recognised as unsuitable for other areas, and would not be tolerated in other parts of Brent.
5. That hundreds of Wembley residents have signed Petitions opposing the building of massive Tower blocks, building on playing fields, and the selling off of any Council-owned land in the area to facilitate an excessive commercial development in the area.

## **We further note that in 2001, after extensive public consultation :**

- A. Brent Council resolved to limit the height of the buildings and restrict the loss of open playing fields proposed for the site of Copland Community School.
- B. The (then) Lead member for Environment assured Wembley residents that the new Copland School would be constructed within the 'footprint' of the old one.
- C. That a Planning Brief setting out Brent Council's views, and subsequently included in the UDP as a area-specific Policy on the above lines, was agreed.

We consider therefore that the decision of the Planning Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2005 to allow a 28-storey Tower Block, and the building of the new School on the playing fields, is in breach of Brent Council's own policies and a major breach of trust with local people.

## **We therefore resolve to:**

1. Uphold the Council's Policies, and instruct the Head of Planning to withdraw/ withhold any Decision Notice in respect of the application.
2. Call on the Government to provide adequate support funding for the rebuilding of Copland Community School.
3. Support in principle the rebuilding of Copland Community School on its existing site by removing the 28-storey Tower Block and any building beyond the area allowed in the Planning Brief.
4. Retain under Brent Council ownership the two Youth & Community Centres in the area.
5. Protect the interests of the two local primary schools, who have rights to share the use of the playing fields behind Copland Community School.