

## SUMMONS ITEM 11(ii)

### FULL COUNCIL 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2006

#### **Motion selected for debate by Councillor Paul Lorber, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group.**

##### Protect Our Open Spaces

Council notes :

- Repeated statements by Brent Labour Party about their supposed commitment to improving the environment and quality of life in Brent
- The promise made to residents in the Brent Labour Party Manifesto to protect green open space and playing fields in the Borough
- Recent criticisms of Brent Council by the Audit Commission and others about the lack of quality provision in Sports and for young people
- The link between poor health, particularly respiratory diseases, and lack of fitness, and the quality of the local environment and accessibility of local amenities

Council therefore notes with concern the increasing number of proposals to build on Open Space that have been approved by the Planning Committee or are in train, and the abetting of these plans by Council departments working under instruction from the Labour Executive or the Executive's wilful co-operation, including:

- The Copland School redevelopment, where the Executive sold leases to facilitate building on Green Open Space and the construction of a 28-storey tower block, and tied proceeds to the profitability (and therefore scale) of the development
- Plans from the South Kilburn Project Team to build a large housing development on the Open Space and Play Area at Granville Road, Kilburn
- The Labour Executive's proposals to build a second City Academy on Green Open Space next to Wembley Park station
- The loss of trees and a small "green oasis" at Cavendish Close

- Plans by the Council's housing partner, Notting Hill Housing Trust, to more than double the number of flats on the Barham Park Estate by building onto the popular and much-used Maybank Open Space

Council therefore calls on the Labour Executive to keep its promises by initiating an immediate review of Planning Policies to provide more protection for Green Open Spaces in the Borough, to make appropriate representations to the Mayor of London and others about the needs to do so, and do more to put their words about improving the local environment into effect in their actions, decisions and use of Council influence and resources.