



The Downtown Defence Campaign

A non-political neighbourhood self-help group to safeguard the best interests of the Rotherhithe Community

5 Somerford Way, Downtown, Rotherhithe, London SE16 6QN

http://www.russiadockwood.ukfriends.com/html/downtown_defence.html

Steve Cornish (*Chairman*)

020-7237-7586

07947-275-386

stevecornish49@hotmail.com

John Wills (*Secretary*)

020-7232-0162

07808-974-548

john.wills6@btopenworld.com

NEWSLETTER 6TH MARCH

Today Barratt's have destroyed another 50 trees on the Downtown site with the collusion of the council. Some of these were cherry trees coming into bloom. This is the Council who did not think it was "their role" to inform you last August that they, prompted by the DDC, had won their case in the High Court against Barratt's & the then Secretary of State, Ruth Kelly, but **kept it secret from the public.**

Here is a brief summary of what you need to know.

- Southwark's Planning committee approved Barratt's plans for the Downtown site on 4th November 2008 but **there were 44 conditions**, including one that Barratt's should restore the Community Hall facility that they removed from their latest plan + other conditions and then submit a revised planning application for approval.

THEY HAVE FAILED TO DO THIS.

- We the DDC are challenging the legality of Southwark Council's granting of permission to Barratt's carrying out the current site work.
- The DDC is still awaiting an official response to questions raised with Councillor Paul Noblett on some specific conditions. We have also requested that Southwark Council should stop all site work until clarifications have been obtained.
- Even as late as today we have approached Boris Johnson who has personally made the following comment: **"I know this to be a very controversial development and it would have done Barratt's no harm to be considerate of those who live close to the site and restrain from felling mature trees until it was necessary to start work on the development"**
- Your local Councillor Paul Noblett has had to step aside as Head of Regeneration because of a potential conflict of interest. The whole issue is now so contentious that Nick Stanton (Leader of the Council) has made the unprecedented move of taking over the executive role for regeneration just for the Downtown site.
- There is a strong possibility that the whole issue may be the subject of a further Judicial Review which means that the proposed current Barratt's development would be ordered to stop with immediate effect by the High Court. If this can be done immediately the DDC will have succeeded in saving the 200+ remaining trees.

The DDC needs your practical help NOW to send a loud & clear message to Southwark Council & your MP

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP.

These people need to know how angry you are. Please take the time to e-mail the below with your comments before it is too late.

nicholas.stanton@southwark.gov.uk HughesSH@parliament.uk or simon@simonhughes.org.uk

paul.noblet@southwark.gov.uk lisa.rajan@southwark.gov.uk david.hubber@southwark.gov.uk

Steve Cornish

Chairman

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