

Crystal Palace Community Association

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Member of the London Forum of Amenity & Civic Societies and The Open Spaces Society Registered Charity No. 261790

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PARK PLANS CALLED IN

LDA Masterplan proposals including sale of Crystal Palace Parkland to build 5-storey blocks of 180 private apartments called in for examination by the Secretary of State.

In a letter to Bromley the Government Office for London advise: **“The Secretary of State is of the opinion that this application is one that she ought to decide herself because she considers that the proposal may conflict with national and regional policies on important matters.”**

Conflict

Despite the application conflicting with their planning policies and the Mayor's London Plan, Bromley Council last month approved the LDA 'Masterplan', arguing 'very special circumstances' have been demonstrated for the sale of Grade II* MOL public parkland for housing.

Opposition to Park housing

Proposed sale of Crystal Palace Parkland for housing widely opposed by public and all four neighbouring boroughs who recognise the precedent this would set.

CPCA Chair, John Payne, says: **“We are encouraged that the Secretary of State has called the application in, recognising the contentiousness of an application including building houses on protected parkland. For the first time proper scrutiny may now be applied to the LDA application.”**

Lord Warner intervenes

The Rt Hon Lord Warner of Brockley, in opposing the application, described LDA proposals as **“crass, unnecessary and provocative”** and **“...that including housing proposals in Crystal Palace Park is unacceptable.”**

Public Inquiry

A local public inquiry will be held by a Government appointed Inspector. The final decision will be made by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Hazel Blears.

Editors Note:

The LDA took a 125-year lease on the National Sports Centre in March 2006 and the funding for a new regional sports centre is entirely separate from the funding for the remainder of the Park. The LDA has until 31st March 2009 to sign a 125-year lease for Crystal Palace Park.

The LDA calculates the cost of Park improvements at £67.5 million, which excludes professional fees, contingencies and VAT, which raises the cost of the full scheme to more than a staggering £110 million.

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