

## Summary

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I am Ms Jasmin Parsons of 62 Marsh Drive, Hendon, London, NW9 7QF.

I have lived on this estate for more than thirty years, many of the local people I grew up with some I have known since junior school. Others I have come to know in more recent times.

I have worked with the council on countless occasions over the years on behalf of the local population without their knowledge, this was of no importance as in the early days the residents had a good working relationship with the council and much was achieved on a local basis.

I also know that for several decades developers have been desperate to lay their hands on our council estate and turn it into a private estate.

We went through several phases, CCT (Compulsive Competitive Tendering), Stock Transfer & Voluntary management were the main ones. Then in 1997 Barnet council brought out their baby Regeneration, it had taken several years to put the scheme together but finally in October 1997 it was presented to the public in all its glory by Cllr Alan Williams leader of Barnet Council.

It started out as the Cricklewood & West Hendon development and soon transformed into Regeneration Area when the first consultation document was published in March 2001.

It changed into the Cricklewood, West Hendon and Brent Cross Regeneration Area by July 2002 when a new Additional chapter to Unitary Development Plan was produced.

As we all now know to our cost disaster struck when the council not only changed its colours it suddenly changed its mind as well and separated West Hendon from the Cricklewood and Brent Cross regeneration project and within a matter of months had already selected a partner for the doomed regeneration project that we are now stuck with.

Instead of me being able to wind down and enjoy the company of my neighbours, friends and relatives in York Memorial Park or the Welsh Harp I find that I am now constantly on call to worried neighbours and other members of the community because of the worry, stress and confusion caused by the Partnership Board (PB) all of which could have and can be avoided.

The reasons our community has put in their objections to put a halt to the CPO is because every single issue, item, problem or subject that we have raised has either been dismissed out of hand, subjected to ridicule, completely ignored or met with a wall of lies by the Cllr's & PB. We the residents have been used and abused and are battered and bruised.

Our lives have been placed on hold indefinitely by a handful of contemptible Cllrs & certain business partners until they decide what is good for us (them).

This doesn't just affect us there is a massive knock on effect with our family, relatives and friends this is a massive abuse of our human rights as it affects us in every aspect of our lives.

### When are we going to be able to get on with our lives?

I have already invested fifteen years of my life into this degenerate idea. **Regeneration does not work** at least for the original community that has been targeted.

We did not ask for brand new business shops houses maisonettes or flats, we definitely did not want tower blocks of any kind.

We asked for re-investment into our homes, our community, our area.

We are the people that live here, that work here, that spend much of our and our family time here **Not the Cllr's & Not the PB**

If what we had actually asked for had been given any real enthusiastic effort we are confident that we would all be carrying on quite happily with our lives now, we certainly would not be going through the life sapping soul destroying destruction of our entire community & our homes.

People have died during this process and although we have no medical proof we know that all this avoidable added stress has certainly contributed.

We have had enough of being pushed around, marginalised and being made to look stupid and helpless. That is why a **Petition that now has over two thousand signatures was started by us residents** that we wish to present to the Public Inquiry maybe then at last the council that has thus far refused to listen to us will finally listen and act upon reason.

How many of these Cllr's would put up with having to live in the same way they expect us to live? Expect them to live as they expect to treat us, to live in the same confined concrete light deficient depressive polluted premises and detrimentally transitioned environment?

Barratts have already built Skylark Court which is the new type of building that some of us are supposed to be grateful to be moving into. Parts of it (from what several tenants have told us) have problems because of the trees the tenants get more sun light during the winter months than they do during the summer (compare trees to the size of a 21, 26, 27 and 32 story towers and you might start to see the light of day).

They are already starting to suffer from cold and damp walls, had parts of their balconies fall away as well as parts of the roof, they put the wrong glue in to hold the windows in place and had to re-glue the entire block, me and two other residents were walking past we were told "we know what to do as it happens all the time" by the workers that were working there.

They are making all the local history disappear as well.

When we requested on more than one occasion that the roads, lanes, alleyways, spaces and buildings be named after our local history we were met with, "it's too late", "it can't done", they won't allow it". It is quite clear that not only do they wish to wipe out the existing community they are also intent on removing all local history from public view as well.

History such as;

The Domesday book which Hendon signed. The importance of the industrial age in Hendon, the Welsh Harp's history and natural beauty & both WW1 & WW2

The Mechanical Warfare Department used the Welsh Harp for secret tests of a new weapon from 1916 to become known as the Tank.

The Mark IX tank was the world's first specialised armoured personnel carrier (APC) was tested for its floatability on the Welsh Harp.

During WW2 a seaplane was kept on the reservoir for quick escape should the Germans land in England, although confusion still reigns as to who was to use it, Winston Churchill or the Royals?

Warner who fought with distinction in the Crimean War made the Old Welsh Harp Tavern one of London's most popular places to go to for over 40 years and was celebrated in song by the music hall star Annie Adams as 'The Jolliest Place That's Out'.

The first formal cycle race was held at the Welsh Harp on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1868.

In 1876 the first ever Greyhound races using mechanical Hares took place at Welsh Harp.

In the winter the reservoir froze for skating and national and international ice-skating events were held. Even coach and horses were raced across the frozen reservoir.

The Woman's European Rowing Championships were held on the Welsh Harp.

Then there is nature itself will it become the stone crescent desert that will be Grahame Park or the dark cold concrete jungle that Colindale is being transformed into without many of the local residents knowledge? Or become the squandered Wasteland of West Hendon/ Welsh Harp?

Will we lose our SSSI status (Site of Special Scientific Interest) and is the only site in both Barnet and Brent, allowing the partnership to resume their previous ambitious plans of building on the allotments the other side of the hump bridge putting its future in doubt as well as the bridge?

We certainly stand a good chance of losing our flying visitors that include but are not limited to the *Little Bittern*, *Squacco Heron* that I often take a minute or two to watch on my way into work in the mornings, the *White-Rumped Sandpiper*, *Great Crested Grebe*, *Gadwall*, *Shoveler*, *Common Pochard* and the more common *Tufted Duck* and *Common Turn*. We also welcome over eight species of *Warbler* which included the first ever sighting in Britain of the *Iberian Chiffchaff*. Rarer birds include the *Black-Winged Stilts*, *Great White Egret*, and *Blue-Winged Teal* unprecedented for inland sites.

Then there's over 28 species of *Butterfly* including the very rare species of *Dark Green Fritillary* and the beautiful looking *Dragonflies* many of the above nest and breed on our reservoir.

The Flora is too numerous to list the WHCCC can do that, the mammals are not so numerous but just as important such as the Bats which are protected by law as is their natural habitats both under threat.

Historical women & men of Hendon such as;

Florrie Forde (1875 – 1940) who sung about the area (her song 'the Old Welsh Harp) was not as well-known as others such as "It's a long way to Tipperary", "Pack up your troubles in your old kit bag", "Down at the old Bull and Bush". She appeared in the very first Royal Command Performance.

Dorothy Lawrence (1896 – 1964) was the only British woman to fight in WW1 she dressed as a Tommy known as Sapper Tommy Dunn and joined ranks of 179 Tunnelling Company, 51<sup>st</sup> Division, Royal Engineers fought in the battle of the Somme. Where is her remembrance?

The men included John Selby Clements CBE (1910 – 1988). Henry Hicks MRCS, FRS (1837 – 1899). Francis Pettit Smith (1808 – 1874). Michael Podro CBE, FBA (1931 – 2008). John Cyril Porte CMG, FRAeS, (1884 – 1919). Oliver Postgate BBC (1925 – 2008).

**I have left what I feel is important to me until closing time.**

My memories of this area span over fifty years I have known a lot of people I have always loved this area and am proud of this area and its place in history should be remembered, but not as a bygone age but as a living breathing memory that can be lived and experienced by all when they choose.

This can only be done in pleasant surroundings and pleasant circumstances.

I brought my children up here they brought their children up here, my family have enjoyed the freedom and security that York Memorial Park & the Welsh Harp allowed them to have, growing up as toddlers to half-pints to teenagers to mutants into adults and parents. It also helped them learn, understand and value their surroundings and their community.

This was happily accomplished in plain sight of other members of our community often joining in sometimes just happy to sit back and allow things to go on around them.

Animals learned tolerance and were trust worthy.

We as adults and parents were able to relax while out with our children often accompanied with their friends either in York Memorial Park or the Welsh Harp.

It was much easier to keep our eyes on our neighbours, the half-pints would often enquire as to were so-an-so was, were we going to see them today.

People who were poor of or suffering from ill health made much more of an effort to come to York Memorial Park or the Welsh Harp because the company was always welcoming and it broke the day and issues could be resolved before they became problems.

This was our community but not for much longer if this project continues along this present path, there will be nothing left for us, for ~~them~~ **£££££**. For us more broken promises more tears.

We ask that you not just take into account the legality of what is being presented to you by Barnet council;

The original statements made by Cllr Brian Salinger and co were that the original project was for OUR benefit, the COMMUNITIES benefit. – **We are Not Benefitting**

We were all promised by Cllr Brian Salinger and co. that WE the COMMUNITY would not suffer as a result of the original project. – **We Are Suffering**

So far as our **PETITION** shows the only party that is suffering from this project are US the COMMUNITY. All our **Human Rights** have been ignored and/ or withheld WE the COMMUNITY want them restored in full

Ms Jasmin Parsons