

# Fighting for a Tolmers Square deal

THE TOLMERS Village Association should have their plan for the Tolmers Square development ready for Camden Council in the next couple of months. But it will be submitted at a time when the future of any scheme for the site is clouded by the Government freeze on office development permits.

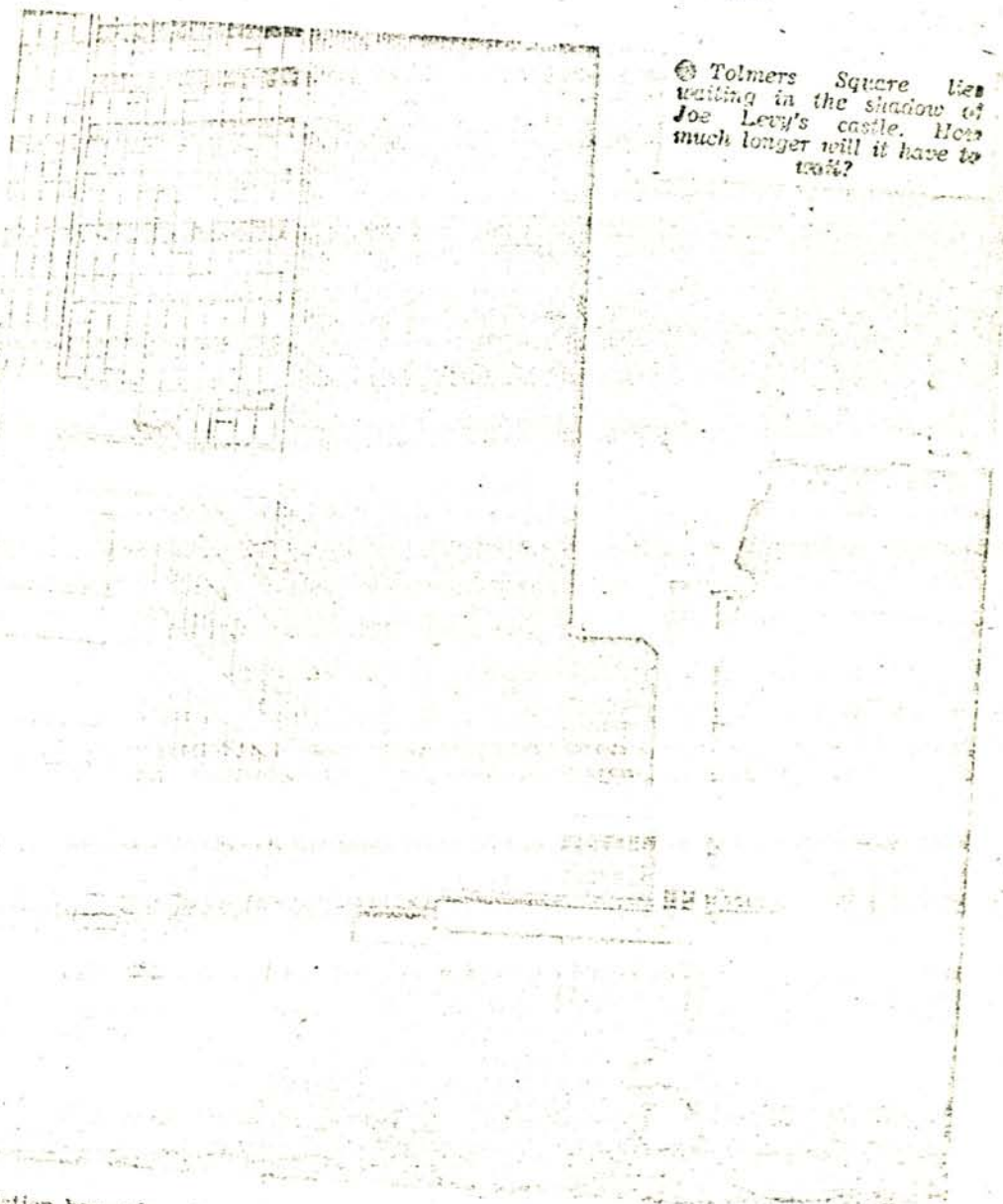
For like the Levy scheme and the Booker/Gray scheme before it, the Tolmers Village Association will rely heavily on office development to pay for the new or rehabilitated housing.

The Government freeze on office development — granted by the Department of the Environment — is for the "near future", which can be variously interpreted according to how far you can see into the future, or at least how far the Government can see into the future.

At the moment, it's not just the fog either. It's a box of thick sticky tape, applications, appeals, CPO's, public inquiries in the path ahead for the association, and it's an optimist who believes there will be a completed development on the site within the next eight years.

It's a pretty bleak prospect for the long term residents of the area. They have remained within their homes and down was no by the prospect of a rehabilitation scheme which was born out of the "Levy Deal" campaign.

At this rate, many of them would be hoping. The



© Tolmers Square lies waiting in the shadow of Joe Levy's castle. How much longer will it have to wait?

association have plans to do something about that, and are talking about a small scale rehabilitation scheme which could be done in the meantime, and for which they would hope to get

the financial backing of Camden Council. Failing that, there are always public Health Acts with which to beat any naughty landlords into bringing their property up

to scratch. And with a new headquarters in Drummond Street, and a grant from a trust fund in the pipeline, the association hope to conduct some sort of advisory service.