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'SCRAP PLANS FOR TOLMERS'

IS it back to Square No. 1 for Tolmers Square?

Residents called on Camden Council last week to scrap its plans for redevelopment of the controversial Euston site and plan for rehabilitation of all the houses there instead.

That would mean the end of the three-year-old scheme for the council to join with Mr Joe Levy's Stock Conversion and Investment Trust for commercial and subsidised housing development.

Instead, Camden would compulsorily purchase all the houses owned by the developer, and some members of the new council support this policy about-turn.

A meeting of Tolmers Village Association last week voted unanimously to call on Camden to seek compulsory

Residents want CPOs

purchase orders for all the Levy property, rehabilitate the houses and rehouse immediately all tenants who wished to move.

The group also demanded a guarantee that Camden would not displace any traders or residents against their will and warned that the TVA would not support the council at a public inquiry into the CPOs unless it received such a written guarantee.

A revised scheme for the area, excluding the Stock Conversion-owned land, prepared by Renton Howard Wood, consultant architects, also won approval. It envisages rehabilitation of council properties, closure of Drummond Street, provision of a street market and conversion of warehouses for commercial use.

Councillor John Mills,

Housing Committee chairman, faced bitter complaints about Camden's inaction over the privately owned homes from the meeting.

One shopkeeper accused him of "selling out" to Stock Conversion. "We're buying them out, not selling them out," replied Mr Mills. He supported the TVA's demands, but warned that some of his colleagues were more conservative.

"We must start a campaign to make public opinion realise that the community and the council and the Government want to make Levy sell under CPO at a reasonable price," he added.

But before seeking CPOs the council would have to prepare a plan for rehabilitation of the whole area, and that decision was up to the new council.

Under strong pressure to rehouse people living in low standard private housing, Mr Mills agreed he would seek to rehouse such people in the council's Netley Street development, then allow them to move back after rehabilitation had taken place.