

JUNE 1977
CAMDEN
TENANT



4 TOLMER SQUARE

Camden Tenant No 17
June 1977

CAMDEN COUNCIL last month proposed a new scheme for the Tolmer Square area. The Tolmer Village Association called a public meeting to discuss what the new proposals would mean for people who live and work in the area and to decide what action should be taken.

Speculators

For many years the redevelopment of the Tolmer Village has been on the cards. The Council has been continually thwarted in their plans to redevelop the area by the high cost of land and the actions of property speculators. Stock Conversion, one of Joe Levy's companies, have been acquiring property over the last fifteen years and now own about 40% of the area. In 1971 they proposed a deal with Camden Council under which they would 'subsidise' Camden's housing land in exchange for planning permission to build offices. This deal was symbolic of power of property speculators, which enables them to dictate their terms to the council, and was finally ended last October as the result of a campaign by the TVA.

Assurances Given

The Council's new scheme recommends the CPO of Drummond Street, but fails to tackle the Levy property. The CPO

of Drummond Street was welcomed by the meeting, but there was concern lest any local residents or business should be displaced against their will. Councillor John Mills gave the meeting an assurance that this would not happen. People also criticised some detailed aspects of the proposals and demanded more consultation before the plans were finalised.

Residents Angry

On the issue of the Levy property many residents were angry that the council was still doing nothing. People are fed up with living in houses which Levy has deliberately allowed to deteriorate. Councillor Mills explained that there were technical difficulties in obtaining a CPO of Levy's property, since the council would have to show detailed proposals for the next 15 years. Further delay cannot be justified. Why has the council not already commissioned the work necessary for the CPO? The meeting passed a resolution demanding an immediate CPO of Levy's property.

Immediate Re-Housing

Another issue which was raised was the re-housing of tenants in Levy's property. The meeting demanded that people who wanted to move should be offered re-housing immediately.

SURI
WELSON