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Council veto approval for Tolmer's Square office-building project

A RECOMMENDATION by St. Pancras Borough Council planning committee that approval be given to a scheme for the redevelopment of part of Tolmer's Square for blocks of offices, shops and showrooms, was withdrawn at the council meeting on Wednesday.

The action followed the attendance at the meeting of a deputation from Tolmer's Square Tenants' Association, who asked the council to oppose the redevelopment scheme. The deputation's views will be considered by the planning committee.

The proposed scheme, which covers the area bounded by Euston Road, Gower Street, Hampstead Road and Tolmer's Square, had been recommended by the planning committee for approval in principle subject to the submission of detailed plans and elevations.

100 families homeless

In moving the confirmation of the minutes, the planning committee chairman, Cllr. Miss Clare Mansel, said she wished to withdraw the item, and this was agreed without discussion.

The deputation was led by the association secretary, Mrs. R. Gavin, who said the proposal would leave about 100 families homeless and they would have little chance of finding elsewhere to live in St. Pancras.

"We realise the place can't just be left as it is. The buildings are coming to the end of their useful life and the L.C.C. are buying part of the site to widen Euston Road. This seems a splendid opportunity for them to take over the whole area and to take advantage of their road widening to plan a new housing scheme just where it is needed."

30 new blocks

She pointed out that many of the residents worked locally and at awkward hours.

"If Tolmer's Square goes, we not only lose our homes but many of us would find it difficult to maintain our jobs."

Within a quarter of a mile of Tolmer's Square, 30 new office

blocks had been built in the last three years, and most of these meant the demolition of residential property.

"In fact, within this distance you may find estate agents' boards proclaiming that a total of 390,000 square feet of office space is to be left. Nearly two-thirds of the office space built in South St. Pancras since 1956 is empty."

The borough council should get together with the L.C.C. and encourage them to buy the whole area and build houses there.

"The first step towards this is for you to throw out this unwanted speculative office building scheme."

No-baths-for-old-folk story is refuted

Allegations that Mr. A. W. Davey, St. Pancras Borough Housing Manager, wrote in an article that old people's residences did not need separate baths were refuted by the Leader of the Council, Cllr. P. A. Prior, at the borough council meeting on Wednesday.

The council agreed to a Labour motion reaffirming the council's belief that a bathroom was an essential facility in all council flats and houses.

The Labour leader, Cllr. C. Ratchford, said he was dismayed at reports that baths were not necessary for old people.

Cllr. Prior said he had seen the article by Mr. Davey and it did not say baths were unnecessary.

"He said that in old people's homes individual baths were not necessary for each bed-sitter."

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