

Heather Taylor
Cromwell Avenue
London W6 9LB

29 September 2010

Nigel Pallace
Director of Environment
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham
King Street
London W6 9JU

Dear Mr Pallace,

DEMOLITION OF CROMWELL AVENUE: HOUSING FOR THE BLIND

I have lived in the area for almost 19 years helped by the Pocklington Trust and I have lived in Cromwell Avenue for 13 years. I am 47, I was born blind but live a full and happy life.

I love my ground floor flat and can keep it clean and tidy myself, I have a garden which is fantastic, I enjoy gardening and it also means I have a dog run for my guide dog. I have fantastic neighbours, there is Gefrey Horrahbin next door and the Smith family upstairs, we all help each other out. For example, we sometimes sit in the garden and enjoy a glass of wine together. If I was moved I would never be able to replace these friends. My lighting has been especially set up for me by the Pocklington Trust who were advised by Reading University, with this lighting I can read large print.

I spend a lot of time in Ravenscourt Park and by the River where I really enjoy the sunrises and I can catch the shadow of the bridge. I use the swimming pool at Fulham in Lilly Road and at Charing Cross Hospital, I love water. The adult education is very good here and I use it a lot. I have many friends who live locally. I know the local shops and the shopkeepers know me. I know and use all the buses, I feel very safe here because I know the pavements.

The Town Hall Development does not make any sense to me, people have come from the Council and said that we live in "slums". We think they are just trying to unnerve us as this development will be worth lots of money. There won't be any social housing in this development, how can they knock down social housing and not put any back?

I can't go back into a hostel or sheltered housing now as this would be a backward step.

My life here has been built up over the past 19 years, I can't bear to think about starting again in another location. I strongly object to the Hammersmith Development proposal as my home is being demolished to make way for new Council offices and luxury apartments. This building was constructed many years ago to help blind people, how can it just be taken away from the Pocklington Trust?

Yours sincerely,

Heather Taylor

**CC Lucy Ivimy, Harry Phibbs, Charlie Dewhirst, Stephen Cowan, Michael Cartwright,
PJ Murphy, Mark Loveday, Andrew Slaughter, Save Our Skyline**