

Kevin O'Flaherty
17 Cromwell Avenue
London W6 9LB

28 September 2010

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

Dear Mr Pallace,

RE: KING STREET DEVELOPMENT: CROMWELL AVENUE

I am writing to object in the strongest possible way to this proposed development which means my mansion block home will be demolished. I am a 42 year old blind man and I became blind at the age of 25, it happened overnight and was due to a brain tumour. After becoming blind I lived for 2 years in a hostel for the blind in Ladbroke Grove. This was the most desperate time of my life and I found I could not live in an institution and desperately needed privacy and quiet.

Eventually I was rehoused in Cromwell Avenue, helped by a blind charity called the Pocklington Trust. I have been able to rebuild my life over the last 12 years largely due to this opportunity. Now I live totally independently in my own flat. The river along Furnival Gardens is where I spend a lot of my time and it gives me strength and tranquility. I go there twice a day and once to Ravenscourt Park, this way my life has meaning.

Around last June I heard from a neighbour that there was to be a meeting at the Town Hall, a "closed meeting", about the Development. I went and we were put into three categories:

1. Those who have no tenancy rights
2. Those with tenancy rights (some people have lived in the building for 40 years)
3. Blind people

We were told that our homes were to be demolished and were shown a Braille map of what the redevelopment would look like. It was a pointless exercise as we were not to be rehoused in the new development. I have not been offered any alternative accommodation by the Developers Grainger plc and Helical Bar plc. I have just been told that I will lose my house. I will not be able to afford accommodation at market rents. I have told a representative from Grainger plc that I will not leave my home peacefully, I will nail the door and will have to be forcibly evicted.

I am a disabled member of society, I am in a vulnerable position completely dependent on others and am about to become homeless. I deserve better treatment than I have received.

I want to stay in my home of 12 years.

Yours sincerely,

Kevin O'Flaherty