

Dear Reader,

I am a resident of Heathwood Point located on Dacres Road. I am writing this email to express my dissatisfaction with the proposed plans for the new development project regarding the high-rise flats on the green area, which would surround the current blocks of flats in the area.

Firstly, I would like to state that the current builds surrounding the blocks already has caused many problems already, just to name a few; traffic jams, parking, noise pollution, vibrations throughout the block and the dirt. With the other build which the majority of residents opposed to causing havoc in the area, these other builds will exacerbate the issues residents are already experiencing. This has been a challenging time for all, but these developments on the doorstep have hindered life even more. My first concern with this development is with regard to the loss of green space that multiple residents use. This area is the only place that the community can congregate with ease to develop our sense of community by organising events such as, barbeques, picnics, firework displays. These events are the only way we feel community spirit between the multiple blocks already inhabiting the area, and is seen as a lifeline for some of the vulnerable residents. Now, this year and the last has been a bit different and we all were not able to arrange these events due to the restrictions imposed due to the current pandemic, but once normality resumes these events will be needed more than ever for us.

Another concern I have is with the current state of the already existing blocks. Multiple residents, including myself, are still awaiting repairs from Lewisham council which have been going on for long periods of time. In addition, the flats are riddled with damp which is having negative impacts on our health which have been reported multiple times and are still an issue. In my flat, my eldest daughter and I have both developed asthma as a result of these crowded, damp conditions and is still an issue we are still suffering from and is declining with us now having an infestation of damp flies and silverfish. This is very unhygienic and to be exposed to this environment is a health hazard, which we should not have to be forced to live like in the 21st century in London. Again, in my personal situation, I have reported a window repair, due to the frame surrounding the window giving way, which I have had two repair workers out to look at and am still waiting to hear back. Also, I am still waiting to receive my fire door which could not be fitted as their work during assessment said the wall is not secure and would crumble if they attempted to fit the new door, which has been reported, and I am still awaiting a response. These are just a few of my personal repairs needed in the flat which is hindering the health of myself and my family, which are all ongoing. I cannot apprehend how we are subjected to these uninhabitable conditions which are being ignored and we are then being told there's enough funding to build these new blocks.

In relation to the point above, another concern is with the actual structure of the blocks we live in. After the Grenfell tower disaster, all high-rise blocks had to meet requirements, these assessments were carried out however, the changes which were meant to happen have not taken place. One example of this is the suggestion of having fire extinguishers on every floor, this is vital to our survival in an occurrence of a fire, with only one stairwell for us to get out it would provide us with a bit of protection. Yes, we do have fire exits out on to the landings outside the flats but once we are out there where are we meant to go? When I raised this concern, I was told Lewisham has the tallest ladder however, how would this tall ladder be able to access the landings on Heathwood Point with the new development which is taking place at the moment where the warehouse once was? With towering boards blocking off the entrance to the block (which is another safety hazard with no lighting) it is a concern felt by multiple residents. Also, following the Grenfell Tower cladding was a catalyst in the fire acting as fuel for the flames, this is present on the side of the

tower block which was supposed to have been removed however, is still present among other recommendations.

Another concern I have with regard to these developments is the parking for the area. This new build will take away the car park facilities for the block but adding more residents. The parking in the surrounding area is horrendous with the school employees and older students of the school parking, as well as the builders parking outside the blocks. This is a major concern for residents which was raised before the builds were taking place, and now these future developments will exaggerate this issue by adding more people but taking away the little parking we already have.

One final concern is the close proximity of these new blocks to the existing ones. This would block out the light to lower flats of the block, which was a concern to the development in progress where the warehouse was. This would have a negative impact on the lives of these families, not to mention their privacy. These tightly packed blocks and lack of light will be a hive for deviant behaviour in the area. This has already taken place with the current builds happening on Mayow Road, with individuals carrying out acts such as theft, graffiti and drug deals. This is becoming a major concern for residents as needles have been left on the property and left there, and overall making the area feel unsafe due to the lack of lighting. So, if this is happening already due to these ominous conditions, increasing these conditions will allow this activity to thrive and make the area feel unsafe and propose a safety hazard for residents.

I personally have many concerns about this new build and have only been able to express a few that I have, but I hope you can understand the ones I have expressed in this email and have another opportunity to fully express the concerns I have.

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