

# The South Woodford Society

we are stronger together...

## Dear Councillors

The drop in meeting at the library this evening to discuss the new local plan for Redbridge was so packed that many local residents couldn't get into the reserved area. It was a shame that none of the local councillors were able to attend as you would have seen the strength of local residents opposition to proposals for more housing in South Woodford WITHOUT ANY improvements to infrastructure.

The meeting was very heated (as well as being hot in the building!) with many residents voicing concerns about lack of infrastructure and questions about why South Woodford has a high volume of housing proposed, why tower blocks are still an option, what is the definition of landmark building for Station Estate etc etc. The isolated planning officers were overwhelmed and unable to cope with any of the questions put to them. They were challenged on the points of greatest concern in the plan and were unprepared to answer anything.

They repeated that local residents could make objections to the inspectorate but they gave a false impression of a straightforward response form, however the reply format is complex and very specific about paragraphs and policies which do not meet legal or soundness tests. So it is a concern that local residents may feel they only need to email an objection when this will not be formally considered by the Inspectors.

If you had been there you may have felt that more needs to be done to make sure local residents are kept informed about what is happening in the area. They also want to know who is looking after South Woodford, who is the guardian to our community, our way of life which is under attack?

## QUESTIONS:

**Why is South Woodford the only part of the "Wanstead to Woodford corridor" which has been earmarked for high density housing?**

**Does the 650 homes proposed for South Woodford include the 150 temporary housing units for Charlie Brown's roundabout?**

**There are many smaller sites such as Old Mill Court which have not been included in the numbers in the plan so the cumulative effect of these small sites will have a large impact on infrastructure. How have these been considered by the planners?**

**Why are tower blocks still a proposal for South Woodford. Local residents do not think they are appropriate. Where are the height limitations for new developments?**

**Why is South Woodford a growth and investment area when it does not have the capacity to expand the infrastructure and there is only 1 car park/leisure proposal in the plan?**

**The only school which has plans for expansion is Nightingale and that is to cope with EXISTING demands for school spaces. Where are the new schools?**

The council focuses on infrastructure at a borough level; should South Woodford residents be satisfied that Goodmayes has a new pool, that Fairlop Waters has a new climbing centre, that Ilford has more school spaces? You build the houses and people will have to travel further distances to get to schools, leisure facilities, surgeries and work. Traffic, congestions pollution will be out of control. **This is what Redbridge has planned for South Woodford. The consultation for this local plan has been badly communicated to local residents. The only way most people heard about it was through the South Woodford Society articles in the Gazette, local paper, facebook and email...not from the COUNCIL.**

**Pressure on the Central Line. Have the planners tried to travel from South Woodford station during the rush hour? It is excessively overcrowded. Wanstead has 2 stations so why isn't more development planned there? Most of the trains empty when it gets to South Woodford as well so how are local residents going to cope with the additional populations?**

**THIS IS NOT NIMBYISM. These are serious questions about the validity of the Redbridge Local Plan. Local residents want to know if and when the council will start listening to them. Please speak to the council planners and ask them for feedback regarding the meeting this evening as they didn't take any notes, but it was an evening they won't forget in a hurry.**



thankyou  
Nicky Chair of the  
South Woodford Society