

Warning towpath will be left in shade

'Flats will make canal a canyon'

CANOEISTS could find themselves in a "dark canyon" if two multi-storey developments are allowed to cast their shadow over Regent's Canal.

Residents reacted in horror when designs for two buildings proposed for a site between the canal and St Pancras Way in Camden Town were revealed last week.

Although no plans have been formally submitted, neighbours and members of community groups were invited to the first meeting of Camden Development Control Forum to discuss the development of 22-24 St Pancras Way while still at an early stage.

The plans, led by Genesis Housing, are for a building of six and seven storeys comprising 73 flats - including 13

by ROISIN GADELRAH

affordable homes for rent and 32 destined for key workers - as well as a number of commercial units.

Neighbour Helene Fawcett said: "The plans are horrific. The high wall of the buildings will plunge the towpath into shade for most of the year. It's going to feel like a prison wall."

She pointed out that staff at Jubilee Waterside Centre had not been invited to the meeting, and added: "Their canoeing classes are held on the reach of the canal which will be most affected. Their water activities will be shadowed by the wall."

Maeve O'Connor, acting chairwoman of Elm Village Tenants and Residents Association, warned that St Pancras

Way would be turned into "a canyon". She added: "It's going to be quite overwhelming and going to make it very dark. When people are living there, there will probably be a lot of noise because noise floats across quite easily."

A spokeswoman for Genesis Housing Group said: "We have been consulting with Camden Council in relation to this development to ensure a workable solution is delivered to meet the area's social housing needs."

"Genesis Housing Group is sensitive to the issues concerning this development and we will aim to comply fully with council policies. We will also ensure the design of the building is consistent with adjoining buildings in the area."

WHEN THE WAR WAS CHILD'S PLAY



CHILDREN'S wartime life, from play on deserted bomb sites to Christmas in a shelter, was dramatised at Swiss Cottage Library on Sunday.

Pupils from Acland

Burghley School in Tufnell Park and Haverstock School in Chalk Farm teamed up with Pascal Theatre Company to perform Camden 1939-1945, a short play portraying life for children during

the war.

Work on the play started in June, when the students interviewed 19 Camden residents about their World War II memories.

Pictured: Evacuees from Acland

Burghley School heading for safety: Back row - Toto Guo, Cory Hippolyte, Ruth Kennedy, Isabel Foster and Geni Ansley. Front row - Robert White, Frankie Farmer and Gabriel Wallis.

A glowing report for 'excellent' school

RICHARD Cobden Primary School in Camden Town has been praised in a glowing Ofsted inspection report.

Inspectors described the Camden Street school as "an excellent oasis of hope for the pupils" in their findings published on Monday.

The report placed the school in the "good" category for overall effectiveness.

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A CHARITY worker's two-year legal battle to see a secret file held on him by Camden Council has been thrown into confusion by a Town Hall claim that the documents have already been handed over.

Barry Sullivan, who runs Camden Town Neighbourhood Advice Centre (CTNAC), has been through eight court appearances at London County Court in Regent's Park and the High Court in Holborn in a bid to see documents and emails.

by RICHARD OSLEY

He began his case after revelations that council staff had accused him of drug dealing and fraud - claims he strongly denies - against the backdrop of the advice centre's eviction from its former base in Greenland Road, Camden Town, in 2003.

The legal saga has bounced from court to court and from judge to judge but Camden Council now claims it has dropped its resist-

ance to releasing the file and has handed Mr Sullivan all relevant documents.

But the volunteer, who now runs the advice centre from the Camden Town home of former mayor Gloria Lazenby, remains wary and wants a court assurance that every document has been handed over.

His supporters say a fat file of documents has been reduced to a small binder of photocopies since being released.

The case will go back

to London County Court later this month when council staff are likely to be asked to go on oath to say they have handed over all the documents and none has been deleted during the long-running legal saga.

A council spokesman said last night: "In September this year the council supplied all the information Mr Sullivan was asking for."

"Camden Council will be supplying the County Court with the information it has given to Mr Sullivan."

Bike theft not what doc ordered

A BIKE-riding doctor has pleaded for the return of his cycle, stolen by a gang of youths in Kentish Town.

Dr Philip Matthewman's dark blue Raleigh Jaguar bike was taken from outside his home by hooded youths at dusk on Sunday, November 20.

His wife pursued them but they escaped with the bike.

Dr Matthewman, who has worked at the Prince of Wales

by CHARLOTTE CHAMBERS

Road surgery since 1989, said: "My wife and kids say everybody gets their bikes stolen in Kentish Town."

"They say just go and buy a new one. Well, I don't want to do that. Most people in Kentish Town are friendly and helpful, and will try to help me if they see it."

"It's worth nothing, it is just of sentimental value." He bought the bike

from Chamberlain's cycle shop in Kentish Town Road 20 years ago and uses it to visit patients in their homes.

He said: "Some are surprised. They expect you to turn up in a Mercedes. But nowadays it's becoming increasingly common, with paramedics cycling. I'm not the only cycling doctor."

He added: "You can always park by the patient's front door. It's the best way of getting around."



Dr Philip Matthewman