

## Appendix J(i)

### Barnet Cophall

Barnet Cophall is part of the Green Belt and as such should be protected from development except for those reasons permitted in the NPPF clauses on Green Belts. But there appears to be tactics being used to ensure that planning applications for developments will be approved. Further, there appears to be no rigorous assessment of the applications.

As Re: is responsible for 'Strategic planning' and 'Planning and Development Management' the whole process appears to be being run to ensure planning application success. Additionally, all organisations applying for planning permission on the Green Belt at Barnet Cophall appear to have 'buddy status'.

In January 2016 there was released a Draft Cophall Planning Brief put out for consultation. In this there was 'Open Space and Amenity Land' with no mention of Chase Lodge leasing this land and removing the trees for artificial pitches and car parking. But then this was slipped into the final plan and within a week of it being adopted by the P&R committee, the ARG committee gave Chase Lodge a two year option to then receive a long lease. In the documentation for this meeting it stated that they had been negotiating this for a year so why was it not mentioned in the Draft Cophall Planning Brief?

Nearly a year after the Cophall Planning Brief was adopted, it has become obvious that it was written with the intention of the known forthcoming planning applications being able to comply with it. The major omission from the Cophall Planning Brief (CPB), as the land is in the Green Belt, was an ecological assessment of the total Barnet Cophall (BC) area. I questioned at one meeting why this had not occurred and was told that this would be built up from various planning applications of specific areas within Cophall. This ensured that any planning application that would damage the ecology of the total BC area would pass without this being investigated. Wild fauna do not confine themselves to man-made boundaries and at BC are likely to roam across these man-made boundaries.

Further 13 (last paragraph of CPB)

#### Funding and Governance Options

To enable Cophall to realise its full potential of an exemplar of good planning, design and management it is proposed that a Cophall Consortium, be made up of site users and stakeholder, be formed to explore the options for future delivery of the aspirational developments outlined within this Planning Brief and its subsequent governance and management.

This implies that the control of BC will be handed over to be managed by those already granted dubious planning applications of BC in the Green Belt.

Middlesex University have been let into BC by way of an application taken under 'delegated powers' and now have plans approved for a large expansion of an activity (education) not previously at BC so requiring 'very special circumstances' that did not exist. The planning application proposal was written to sound as though a new West Stand was to be built to replace the decaying present west Stand and associated works. Further, this application was to increase by 50% the spectators at a Saracens match once a year and we all know that once a precedence is set, a later application for many times a year will have to be approved.

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The new BC Leisure centre also has Middlesex University written all over it. A FOI request to Barnet Council asking for Middlesex University involvement in the leisure centre stated that they had no involvement but the FOI for correspondence between Middlesex University and Barnet Council showed they were definitely involved. I suspect that the removal of diving had more to do with increasing the sports hall from 5 court to 8 court for Middlesex University (who wanted a 12 court sports hall) making it about the size of the present leisure centre.

Beside the Leisure centre Planning application had two ground floor plans and no first floor plan in the documents for public consultation. The West Stand application was 180 documents in no particular order that it was not until I read the agenda for the planning meeting that the scale of Middlesex University became apparent. And the removal of S106 agreements from a previous application. The Resource Centre in the planning brief became the Greenspaces building in the CBF and in that application the swales around the leisure Centre was one of the documents! I could go on but time is short. I have also attached files regarding my concerns for these applications.