From:
To: Forward Planning

Subject: Broadwalk development Edgware.

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Dear department

Without prejudice.

I am concerned that a high rise development is being proposed for Edgware. I am particularly concerned about the density of blocks proposed, and wonder about mental health where there will be poor levels of day light distribution, lack of privacy for residents seeing into facing windows, noise potential because of neighbours' close proximity with noise travelling between occupants, enhanced by the development lay out, also wind effect between blocks due to the dense lay out, unfortunate lack of planned public services... for example: schools, doctors, etc.. Far from providing a sense of residential elevation and paradise I foresee a large crisis with residents' mental feeling of being in a ghetto, introverted and separate from the surrounding community. Of course there will be exceptions, and some interaction with outsiders, but there will be a potential for organised exclusion of outsiders coming from within by ( I hope not) gangs and drug operators. To prevent such a prospect special security consideration may be needed. I doubt such has been thought through in the developer's thinking.

Delicately, not taking sides, public order needs to be considered. Added to the sense of being enclosed and detached is a potential clashing of demographics, with the possibility of real friction with a large pro Israel Jewish community surrounding the site, and if there is a large import of anti Israel residents making clear their hostility towards Jewish people, for example through the hanging of pro Palestinian flags all over buildings (as is happening in Gants Hill, Barkingside and Ilford where the Jewish community is I fear feeling uncomfortable in a district where for several decades they lived peacefully and prospered. Once Europe's biggest Jewish community is now much reduced. ). I may be wrong but there will be potential for disaster ahead. Do you want it? ask yourselves. Can you risk it?

The development rising way over the heads of streets in close proximity, will definitely result in the decline of contentment for those unfortunate people who at night will be overseen by a mass of artificial lights. By day the towers will shade all around close by, and deprive them of natural light. Privacy is another consideration. A wide decline in enjoyment of living in surrounding areas through being under the constant shadow. Go to the intersection of Grange Hill and Orchard Crescent, Edgware, and see how the newly built 17 floor block appears to the residents there, and multiply that affect by an out breaking mass of high rise blocks. Here the distance between the block and the intersection in Hale is 3/4 of a mile. Far from enhancing the atmosphere of Edgware, East Harrow borough, and Barnet borough, such a vista will dominate way over the locals, and destroy the suburban green aspiration. Are there no better sites for the developer? Least hurtful.

We obviously do need more housing for a growing population, but there has to be modification of proposals, and more empathy for the residents of both a high rise potential ghetto and the people you are being asked by the developer to thrust a drastic over built development on.

Yours faithfully

Jeffrey Goldwater