

King's Cross--think again

Community groups in King's Cross are launching a campaign to ask Camden Council to think again about Argent's proposed development.

The development lies mainly within Camden, with the small Triangle site split between Camden and Islington. In March Camden's Development Control committee gave provisional consent to outline plans for the massive scheme. In April, Islington's West Area Committee gave provisional consent to the Triangle development, but with key amendments which reflected their concerns about its suitability for housing.

Now groups which raised objections are calling on Camden to think again before any final agreement is given.

'Camden Council can still reject the scheme as it is,' said Marian Larragy, Co-chair of the King's Cross Railways Lands Group. 'We all want regeneration, but this huge scheme with its bleak office blocks, is not what our area needs. It's designed to make money not to help the local community. We're urging the councils, particularly Camden, to think again and demand the plans are improved.'

Working in a consortium of local groups, including the Camden Greens, King's Cross Conservation Area Advisory Committee, Regent's Network and Cally Rail Group, the objectors are taking a close look at some of the worst drawbacks of the plans.

Three of the consortium's key demands are:

- * Increasing significantly the ratio of housing to commercial space, as well as meeting London Plan targets for affordable housing, units for larger families and homes for wheelchair users.

- * Stopping the demolition of irreplaceable Conservation Area buildings like Stanley and Culross Buildings, plus unique railway and canal architecture, to make way for new roads and office blocks.

- * Creating a completely zero-carbon development, using renewable energy throughout, instead of a token handful of solar panels and wind turbines.

'It's not too late for councillors to think again,' said Marian Larragy. 'They should tell Argent that these plans just aren't good enough for a 21st century development in King's Cross and demand a scheme which can help bring real regeneration to this area of London.'

Note to editors

The **King's Cross--think again** campaign will be launched by members of the groups leafleting outside St Pancras station/the German Gym, **11am to noon, on Saturday, 1 July.**

Diana Shelley, press officer, on (020) 7609 0054