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Mayor railroads local planning experts and allows third tower block despite pre-election promise

- Mayor says 18-storey development in Wandsworth can go ahead
- Plans were rejected unanimously by local cross-party planning committee
- Mayor's decision overrules over 1,000 local residents
- Breaks pledge on high rises and falls short of 50% affordability promise
- Seven-year deadline for developer is twice normal amount

Sadiq Khan has overruled over a thousand local objectors by approving plans for a controversial tower block in south-west London.

The 18-storey development in Wandsworth was rejected by planners due to its height and scale, and its proximity to historic Wandsworth village and a conservation area.

The Mayor though overruled the decision in what is the third action of its kind so far this year, following similar rulings in Harrow and Haringey.

In his manifesto, the Mayor committed to:

- a. Ensure that high rise developments respect local character
- b. And that half of new homes should be genuinely affordable

Although the approved development saw its affordable housing increased to 35 per cent, it falls short of the Mayor's pre-election pledge of 50 per cent.

In a further twist, the developers were given an extended seven-year deadline to complete the project - more than double the normal limit.

GLA Conservative Andrew Boff said:

"The Mayor has intervened for the third time this year and again ignored local people's objections to these high-density developments.

"While Mr Khan is claiming a victory for social housing, in reality he is falling short once more on his own promises.

"The Mayor should both respect local communities and fulfil his commitment on ratios of social housing, yet he has done neither.

“The extended seven-year deadline may also mean the development never happens, whereas a more modest scheme would have delivered much-needed homes more quickly.

“His boasts of achieving more affordable housing suggest he’s more interested in scoring political points than making a genuine attempt to address the housing issues Londoners face today.”

ENDS.

Notes

- Andrew Boff is the GLA Conservatives’ housing spokesman
- Harrow and Tottenham tower blocks:
- http://www.harrowtimes.co.uk/news/15148710.Mayor_abandons_affordable_housing_target_and_high_rise_objections/
- http://www.harrowtimes.co.uk/news/15158655.Campaigners_slam_Sadiq_Khan_s_ridiculous_approval_of_two_tower_blocks/
- The application was unanimously rejected by Wandsworth’s cross-party planning committee and received written objections from 1,072 local people

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact the press office below.

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