

Is your home under threat?

A top secret list has been drawn up of council owned sites in South Cambs which may be “suitable for immediate development”

Demolitions

Included are existing council houses and garages which would be demolished, as well as green spaces which would be built on.

The list is part of a total of 89 sites with development potential identified by consultant Simon Ward in a study costing £22,600.

Sheltered schemes

The plan, if tenants vote for transfer, is for the new housing association to be able to quickly develop the sites for additional housing.

The usual method is for the HA to demolish homes, especially sheltered schemes where there is low density, and build blocks of flats, or twice as many houses with tiny gardens, on the site.

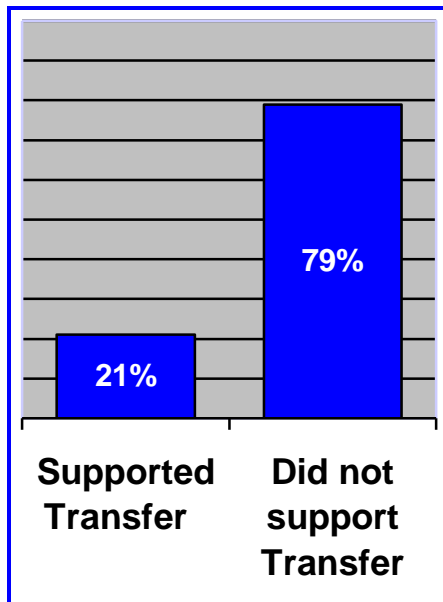
Higher rents

In most cases, at least half of the new homes are sold privately, whilst evicted tenants are forced to move elsewhere or accept new, smaller homes with much higher rents.

Recent press reports highlighted local cases, including in East Cambs, where former council tenants are being evicted by their HA to allow demolitions to take place.

Secret

The locations of the South Cambs sites are being kept secret as it is “commercially sensitive.”



Tenants reject sell-off pressure

Despite bombarding tenants for over a year with pro-transfer propaganda, including thousands of pounds worth of glossy leaflets, countless drop-ins, and two DVD's costing £50,000, council officials managed to persuade only 21% of tenants visited to indicate support for their homes being sold off.

The figures, reported to the Council in November, showed that a huge 79% either made clear their opposition, or refused to tell the council's pro-transfer callers how they would vote.

Dave Kelleway, Chairman of SCAT and a tenant for 30 years, said:

“I have had many complaints from tenants about the intrusive and intimidating nature of these calls, and the misleading information that was given out.

“Clearly from these figures tenants are on course to reject privatisation, just as we did in 2005 when 82% voted against.”

Public Assets give-away!

The Council admits its 5,600 homes have a market value (with sitting tenants) of over £480M, but it is planning to sell them for a knockdown £50M – an average of under £9,000 each.

Amazingly, the costs of Transfer are so high that the council expects to make little or no profit from the £50M receipt - making it the biggest public asset give away in South Cambs history!

Only tenants can stop this scandal, by voting against transfer in the upcoming ballot.



Budget blackmail

Many tenants feel that the council has tried to blackmail them into voting for privatisation, with many threats of service cuts.

However, council budgets show that there are NO planned revenue cuts before 2012 and in total over the next 5 years, less than the amount spent on the sell-off attempt!