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STATEMENT

For immediate use

Queensway Inquiry To Start Soon

The Inquiry starts on Tuesday 24th November at 10 am and will be held at the Bedford Hotel on Clifton Drive South, Lytham St Annes.

In October 2008 the Kensington PT Partnership applied for planning permission to build 1,150 houses on land south of Queensway.

Kensington provided information about this scheme, but not enough to satisfy those agencies responsible for highways, nature, the environment and the airport, each of whom retained objections to the scheme.

Fylde Council pressed Kensington to produce the information these organisations required, but Kensington were unable or unwilling to provide it.

Kensington then decided to appeal to the Government because Fylde had not determined their application in the time allowed.

Fylde subsequently held a meeting to decide whether, based on the information they had been given up to that point, they would have approved or rejected the planning application. They decided they would have rejected it.

After Kensington appealed, the Government instructed an agency called the Planning inspectorate to hold an Inquiry in public in St Annes.

They appointed an Inspector to take charge of the Inquiry and to produce the advice and recommendations that the Secretary of State will use to decide whether to grant the appeal that would allow Kensington to build the houses, or whether to dismiss the appeal.

The Inquiry starts on Tuesday 24th November at 10 am and will be held at the Bedford Hotel on Clifton Drive South, Lytham St Annes.

It will take about eight days. However it is expected to finish at lunchtime each Friday and, by convention, Mondays are not inquiry days, so the overall time will be approximately two weeks.

The present plans differ greatly from those Kensington displayed at its public exhibition on Kilnhouse Lane in December 2007. They have even changed quite significantly since September of this year.

On the opening day of the Inquiry, the Inspector will allow any member of the public who wishes to do so to have their say about the scheme for a few minutes if they attend at the Bedford Hotel at 10am and indicate a wish to speak when they arrive.

That first day will begin with opening statements from The Council, from QED, and from Kensington. Then the public will have their say, after which the meeting will go into the detailed evidence presented by each of the three main parties.

The inquiry remains open to the public for the eight or so days it will last, and anyone can walk in and sit down in the public area to listen to the arguments being made for and against. But after the first day, no one except the three main parties will be allowed to speak. You do not have to be there for the whole time, it is possible to attend for days or part days if you are interested.

Kensington and the Council will be represented by a barrister; QED will represent themselves on behalf of the community.

At the conclusion of the Inquiry the closing speeches will be made and the Inspector will take some time to digest and weigh up the evidence presented to him.

It is expected he will make a recommendation by 29th January, and the Secretary of State is expected to announce a decision at some point after that.

More details are on QED's website at www.queensway.org.uk

Press release ends

For more information:

Visit the Queensway website at <http://www.queensway.org.uk>

QED has close links to Defend Lytham and local environmental organisations. It is also a member of the Fylde Civic Awareness Group.