

UPDATE ON TESCO/HOMEBASE PUBLIC INQUIRY

The public inquiry into the Tesco/Homebase planning application ended on Friday 30 Sept, after sitting for 15 days. It is estimated that we might have to wait for maybe 9 months for a decision from the Secretary of State of whether he approves or refuses the Planning Application to build 16 blocks of up to 17 storeys of 2150 flats on the 2 sites.

Here are some key dates from the last 3.5 years:

- 26 April 2019: information from the Tesco of plans to relocate to the Homebase site and build a housing development on the current Tesco site
- 24 September 2019: first meeting with the developer, Berkeley Homes
- 3 & 8 October 2019: Berkeley Homes holds first exhibitions to display its plan
- 20 November 2019: first public meeting in St Francis Church (organised by Councillor Tony Louki & OWGRA) to inform local residents about the plans, and was attended by over 100 residents
- Autumn 2019 and spring 2020: Berkeley Homes holds meetings with local residents (Community Liaison Group)
- 12 December 2019: first meeting of the Residents' Action Group about the developments; this group has met dozens of times over the last 3 years, mainly over Zoom, to campaign against the proposed developments
- September 2020: OWGRA commissions a 3D model as the developer hadn't produced one
- End September 2020: planning applications submitted by the developer to the Council
- 22 & 24 Oct, 5 & 12 Dec 2020: OWGRA exhibits its 3D model outside the Nishkam School, Wyevale Garden Centre and Homebase
- 8 April 2021: Hounslow Planning Committee approves both planning applications
- 7 Sept 2021: Mayor of London allows the redevelopment to go ahead
- 24 November 2021: Secretary of State Gove 'calls-in' the planning applications
- 15-18, 24-25, 28-30 March, 25 April, 26-30 Sept: Public Inquiry (held partly in person at Hounslow House and partly virtually) via Microsoft Teams

Our team has worked really hard campaigning against these developments, particularly during the public inquiry, which was extremely demanding of time and expertise that we didn't always have. We gave it our all and couldn't have done any more. All we can do now is await the decision of the Secretary of State expected in 2023.