

Good morning Helen,

I would say I hope you're well but after that email I'm not sure I care how you're feeling when you so clearly disregard the wellbeing of Ladywood residents. I'm afraid saying you don't underplay the impact of the regeneration on the residents doesn't really have any effect unless you actually start doing it.

(From here, I will begin the use of "you" to refer to BCC as a whole).

There seems to be a never-ending loophole of not being able to give real answers until a contract is signed but residents want a full picture before any contract is signed and decisions are made permanent. Ladywood may be somewhat deprived but we aren't ignorant and we see the trap that lies ahead of us set up by Birmingham City Council (BCC) and St Josephs. There is no more say for us once a contract is signed no matter how many times you invite us to the community centre to write on big sheets of paper.

Collette told us in our previous meeting that there was an indicative masterplan which you have yet to share. If you are really putting the residents at the forefront of what you do then shouldn't the masterplan (despite how incomplete) be shared with the people from the beginning? You had no problem sharing a red line and map that isn't complete with exactly what will be knocked down so the dissemination of incomplete information is not strange to you. Shouldn't the residents get a say in what goes and what doesn't? After all, we know the area better than you do so would you not benefit from our experience and knowledge?

You say profit is not a driving force but I'd like you to elaborate on that. BCC is currently experiencing financial hardships and aims to take on a £2.2 billion project with a private developer (one that's been in multiple scandals no less) that ONLY makes luxury homes. You have tens of thousands of people on Birmingham's waiting list for council housing and there is an obvious shortage of social housing (NOT affordable housing, yes we know the difference). So tell me, if this is really NOT for profit then why aren't you working to make homes for the people on that waiting list and why are you leaving the towers in Ladywood that house people in dire need of safer homes? Why are you partnering up with a LUXURY homes developer and pretending like it's good for us and the city? Where do you plan to put everyone whose perfectly good home you destroy?

I don't think it's unreasonable to ask for these questions to be answered before a contract is signed. In fact, it's our right to know. Do you have any idea of the mental strain and problems you have caused on the people of Ladywood? No one knows what their future holds and cannot make important life decisions due the uncertainty that YOU brought upon the neighbourhood. Imagine yourself in a situation where you don't know if you can buy your home, if you can decorate it how you like, if you can invest in property in your area, if you can assure your kids they will stay in the same school, if you will have the same wonderful neighbours, if you will still live next to your family, if you will still have access to the same amenities and services of your neighbourhood etc etc etc.

I feel as though I'm wasting my time trying to tug on BCC's heartstrings because you don't have any and you will come back with a generic answer as always. However, I will tell you now that you severely underestimate the knowledge and willpower of Ladywood residents. You have a huge lawsuit on your hands with the years of neglect of social housing and the physical/mental health problems as a direct cause. Now you have a case of gentrification on your hands which may have been easy for you to do before but Ladywood won't allow it.

Answer Ladywood Unite's responses properly with direct involvement of the developer in curating these answers so we know what our future holds. We are not asking for a complete masterplan, we are asking for a clear idea of what you decide to destroy before you sign a paper to destroy it. Then we would like to actively work on this masterplan with you to ensure good quality homes are not taken down and anyone who has to be rehoused will receive a fair deal for the trouble you put them through.

If you would like ideas on how to do this process more ethically, I am more than happy to sit down with you and invite my colleagues from the [We're Right Here campaign](#) to discuss this. I'm not here just to criticise and point the finger, I am willing to give all of my spare time to sit down and talk and plan and help you create something that the majority will benefit from. You just have to choose if you want to work with me or against me.

I'm not writing this email on behalf of We're Right Here or Ladywood Unite. I'm writing this email as the angry daughter of two amazing people who have worked incredibly hard to buy a home in the area and make it their haven. I will not let them get any more grey hairs over this.

Regards,