

NEWS FLASH: MBC IN A STATE OF PANIC!

The Insider can reveal that the Mayor and his Executive are running scared. Fearing that their squalid scheme to buy up houses for less than half their true value will fail, they have recruited the Editor of the local paper; in a last ditch effort to save their land grab conspiracy.

We say the Gazette is backing a loser, and will remind them of their article of August 11th last year.

Under the heading:- **“I guarantee everyone will be offered a house of similar or better standard”**, the Mayor is quoted as promising **“homeowners will be paid full market value for their homes calculated as if no demolition plans existed.”**

Quoted this week in the Gazette (11/1) is senior valuer at Thirwells estate agents, Ian McClelland, making the point that house prices in Gresham are lower than elsewhere in the town due to blight. “Properties” he said “within the area have dropped about 20%...probably in the last six to seven months, since they announced they were coming down. Up to that point (he added) we couldn’t put enough street houses on the market, Middlesbrough town centre was booming.”

Despite this abundantly clear explanation for artificially low house prices in the area, the Gazette chose to present the same blighted figures as the genuine value of our homes, and as such prices we should meekly accept. In other words, *flying in the face* of the Mayor’s ‘guarantee’ of value **“calculated as if no demolition plans existed.”**

We think that the people responsible for this piece of gutter journalism should hang their heads in collective shame, but it doesn’t end there.

Home owners and residents held a public meeting on 9th Jan to remind both the council and people of Middlesbrough of the promises made back in August, and make a clear statement (through our only Cllr worthy of the title) that if we were forced to relocate, we would accept nothing less than that which had already been promised

Our declared determination to be treated fairly was described by the Gazette the following day as ‘unrealistic’, and Cllr Walker as ‘irresponsible’. The Insider says this is **disgraceful**.

Houses ‘of similar’ (not better standard) in the town not yet blighted by this council, are on the market TODAY* (not last year Mr editor!) for between 85 and 95k. Add to that the fact, we don’t want to move, and will be entitled to compensation, then £100,000 minimum is *not* unrealistic at all.

Most importantly of all we are not putting our homes up for sale on the open market and consequently we are not governed by the current blighted state of that market. We will remind the Gazette (and the individuals they have decided to support *against* the community they claim to serve) that **as reluctant sellers, the onus is on MBC to meet our evaluation; there is absolutely no chance of us succumbing to theirs.**

The Insider says remember they cannot afford to CPO us, that’s a myth put about to make us believe they are in control of our destiny. They are not. WE ARE, AND WE WILL DECIDE WHETHER TO SELL OUR HOMES AND AT WHAT PRICE - £100,000 guaranteed remains merely a starting point.