

**INSIDER newsflash: Revealed more devious, underhand practices at the Town Hall** - On the 10<sup>th</sup> April, MBC intend to claim town wide support for their (so called) regeneration plans, for the whole of Middlesbrough, which includes the demolition of (for starters) 1500 homes in the town centre.

They will refer to a public consultation document (Local Development Framework) (LDF) which has been freely available from Vancouver House – tel: 7282380) since the 28<sup>th</sup> February. The document includes official return forms so that every member of the public, who so wishes, can register objections, before the deadline date for doing so – which just happens to be (yes you guessed it) the 10<sup>th</sup> April.

Didn't know anything about it? Don't worry, you were not supposed to. If no one knows that the planning/consultation documents are out there, then no one can register an objection. This is called **"keeping the public informed every step of the way"**. This is **'consultation' MBC style**.

Having had the opportunity to view the LDF document, it is now clear that it is not only the residents of Gresham and the Gem's who have reason to be fearful for their homes, livelihoods – their very futures. Many small businesses in various locations in the town are also to be swept aside, their land sold off to 'bigger fish', if this council leadership gets its way. The Mayor wasn't kidding when he announced back in (2002) "this town is ripe for take over". Otherwise known as dispossessing thousands of ordinary hard working people, of everything they have managed to accrue for themselves, and given away to a greedy few.

We have always maintained that 'Housing Renewal' was a cynical ploy to obtain Government money under false pretenses, and to hide from the general public the true nature of their land grab aspirations.

The 'hidden from view' (LDF) document is full of references to clearing land for big business, not housing renewal. For instance the proposed true intentions for much of the land 'socially cleansed' in Gresham and the Gems is for a **'specialist retail, university campus, and bar and café quarter concentrated in and around Linthorpe Road central'**.

So what of the promise to build 750 new houses? Readers will not be surprised to learn that the careful language used by 'MBC' is not accidental - 'we want' rather than 'WE WILL' build 750 new dwellings is a clear recognition of the space requirements needed for their **'specialist retail' and 'café quarter'**, plus the new access roads required to service this **NEW COMMERCIAL CENTRE**. Page 65 of the LDF clearly shows that 750 new dwellings is an absolute maximum, but that as many as 450 are likely to be flats not houses, and that at least 400 of these will not be built until 2016, if at all. So where are we to live in the meantime?

Maybe, as we suspect, it is MBC's intention to move many of us into empty ex council (now Erimus) properties. The **INSIDER** has learnt that there are currently over 750 of these houses throughout Middlesbrough almost half of which are in Grove Hill.

It is a awful to have to say it, but we are not dealing with honourable people at MBC, at the present time, and if we do not stick together and fight they will take our homes for a pittance, and offer us inferior alternative accomodation, in locations non of us want to be. Several thousand of us would no doubt like to return the LDF objection slips to register our continued opposition to MBC's **land grabbing** intentions, and we aim to ensure that all who wish to, will have the opportunity to do so. Watch this space - Attend the meeting at Liberty's on Monday - Don't let the Town Hall bandits get away with it.