

Your prayers are requested during Lent for the decision makers involved in the Planning Application by Harborough District Council (HDC) to demolish social and sheltered housing without replacing it.

Tenants have been deliberately removed from their homes over two years to make their homes empty. Officers of HDC and Waterloo Housing Group (now Platform Housing Group, PHG) claimed these homes were surplus to requirements in April 2018!

Users of the well used Community Hall were told the future use of the Hall could no longer be guaranteed – thus forced to go elsewhere. PHG claimed the Community Hall was unused and surplus to requirement!

HDC suggested costly repairs and maintenance as being un-necessary whilst awaiting Planning Consent – and thus nothing happened in this regard until after a public meeting held in December 2019 goaded the PHG into action in January this year.

Both nationally and locally bungalows for the post-retirement age group are in short supply. Alms Houses are building more homes for the increasing numbers who cannot afford supposedly 'Affordable Housing' (80% of market rent/sales).

HDC refuses to acknowledge the needs of the elderly and vulnerable on their own doorstep despite the long delay to rehouse sitting tenants with ages up to 97 years!

Serious concern is raised by PHG having already stripped out heating, plumbing and metal works out of the homes that were earmarked for demolition. One can only presume that HDC and PHG assume Planning Consent as guaranteed!

This makes a mockery of the Planning Process, and exposes the Leaders of the Council to being unfit to handle the well-being of some of the most vulnerable of people. Tenants are being treated as acceptable collateral damage to make access to a small piece of land that might have been large enough for about 12 homes in keeping with the surrounding community. Not to replace the homes and facilities is a travesty of justice for both the remaining tenants and the surrounding residents who also used to benefit from the activities in the Community Hall.

Traffic and parking is already a nightmare. Noise and demolition and builders driving past the front doors of the remaining elderly tenants for 15 or more months is not relished!

Please pray for the tenants and that God will speak to the hearts and minds of those who simply want profit regardless of the social consequences.