



## HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

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22 October 2019

We write regarding Conquest House on Elmfield Road. As you will be aware, this vacant building, owned by Taylor Wimpey, has served as the epicentre of a spike in localised crime in Bromley Town in recent weeks. There have been multiple muggings in the immediate vicinity of the site, including a number involving schoolchildren, with the squatters, having illegally gained entry to the building, now generating a considerable level of disturbance and anti-social behaviour in the area.

To date, Taylor Wimpey's response to this problem has been at best, wholly inadequate, and at worst, negligent. Despite concerns being raised over a number of months by both residents and local representatives, action to initially secure the site was only begrudgingly taken by Taylor Wimpey following the Community Protection Notice warning letter Bromley Council issued in August. As you will know, the boarding subsequently erected was breached earlier this month, since when there has been a clear correlation with the crime that has taken place.

As this is a privately-owned site, the local authority is limited in the enforcement action it can pursue. Taylor Wimpey is ultimately responsible for securing and maintaining the building and, having read through your corporate responsibility policy, would, we are sure, not dispute its duty of care to local residents. Although it is welcome that legal action to evict the squatters was successful yesterday, much to our frustration, Taylor Wimpey has since rejected an offer to meet so that we can discuss the future of the site, including how it should be secured.

In response to the crime that has been experienced, police patrols are being increased in the area, but Taylor Wimpey must play its part in ensuring the site is properly secured and this problem, which is a cause of real concern for local residents, is not perpetuated.

Frankly, it is disappointing that we are having to write to you in this way. We urge Taylor Wimpey to rethink the obstructive approach it has so far adopted, and would request again an opportunity to meet.

**Bob Neill MP**

Co-signed: Cllrs Nicky Dykes, Will Harmer and Michel Rutherford; Bromley Town ward.