


# COUNCIL TAKES NO LEGAL ACTION OVER '44 MISSING SOCIAL HOUSING UNITS'

 AMELIA BURR (01 October, 2015) HOUSING

Councillor Ben Johnson described the situation as an "absolute shambles."



Bermondsey Spa

Southwark Council will not be taking enforcement action after 44 missing social housing units promised for a Bermondsey development never materialised.

In 2010 Notting Hill Housing's planning

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legal agreement in 2011, the wording had  
switched to Affordable Housing Units, which

means rents can be set at up to 80 percent of  
market levels.

In March this year Notting Hill Housing confirmed  
to Liberal Democrat councillor for Grange ward,  
Ben Johnson there were no social rented  
properties on site.

After the News reported the 'missing homes' to the  
council in May, Cllr Mark Williams, Southwark's  
cabinet member for regeneration and new homes,  
told us he was "looking into the rent levels  
proposed at Bermondsey Spa" and that  
"appropriate action" would be taken.

In a document providing an update on the  
Aylesbury Estate compulsory purchase orders, the  
council revealed last week that it "has taken legal  
advice and will not be taking enforcement action"  
in relation to the 44 units.

Instead Cllr Williams is calling for the 44 social  
rented homes to be built elsewhere in the  
borough.

"We confirmed to the Planning Inspector last week  
that we will not be taking enforcement action  
against Notting Hill Housing Group in relation to  
the Section 106 agreement for the Bermondsey  
Spa site C5 development," said Cllr Williams.

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 this site, elsewhere in the borough. We expect  
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 them to do just that," he added.

A spokesperson for Notting Hill Housing Trust confirmed "There are no plans to change rents at The Exchange (also known as Bermondsey Spa). This honours the obligations on rent levels set out in the [legal] agreement. However, we are in dialogue with Southwark Council about providing more social rent homes in the borough."

Cllr Johnson described the situation as "an absolute shambles."

"When a planning committee votes for socially rented homes, that is what the developer should deliver.

"How on earth are the council going to provide the thousands of new council homes that we need if they can't get 44 at The Exchange?"

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