

## **Press release from Sankey Drive Independent Residents Association.**

A group of Hadley homeowners who picketed on the pavement outside a Wellington pub last night said they'd go to jail before they pay demands from developer Taylor Wimpey amounting to thousands of pounds. The Red Lion had been hired by the builders as a venue for a community consultation session on a proposed new housing estate on sports fields off Golf-Links Lane.

'We're angry and we're here to warn everybody thinking about buying a new house' said protestor Tracey Thatcher from the Sankey Drive Independent Resident's Association.. 'Watch out for restrictive covenants on your home. You buy the house but the developers keep hold of the land outside and charge you to maintain it. They didn't tell us about the covenant when we bought our Taylor Wimpey houses. First some of us knew was when a bill for hundreds of pounds dropped through our door a year after we moved in. We didn't know what it was, it was from some maintenance agent we'd never heard of called Mainstay. They said they owned the land now and we had to pay. It got more every year. We paid until we found out they were just agents and that Taylor Wimpey were the landlords. Then we stopped paying. Now Taylor Wimpey are taking us to court. How can you buy a house and still have a landlord chasing you for money? It's ridiculous. Hard-pushed families round here are being dragged to court by Taylor Wimpey. We don't feel like their customers, we feel like their victims. But we've helped start a website called HorNet, homeownersrights.net, and we're joining with groups all over the country who have the same problem with this unfair extra tax.'

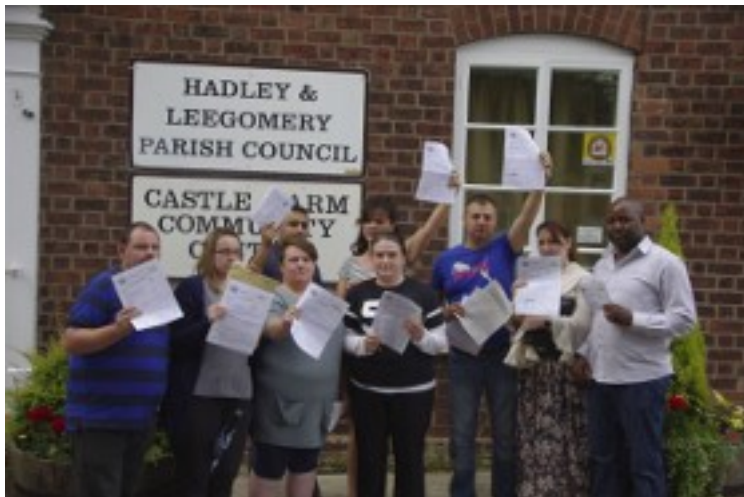
'Sometimes the street lighting in our road works, sometimes it doesn't. People park anywhere because it's a private estate. ' added demonstrator Karmjeet Rai, 'We don't know how much the maintenance bill will be each year. The maintenance company can do what they like, charge what they like. You can't fire the maintenance agents. You've got no consumer rights. We've been telling people coming here tonight to ask if the new estate at Ercall Wood would be adopted by the council. If it's not then watch out because you'll end up paying hundreds to a landlord every year. Taylor Wimpey weren't straight with us when we bought our homes and we'll continue direct action so that other people don't get trapped. If we have to go to jail for non-payment then that's what we'll do.

Sankey Drive home buyer Sam Burdett said. 'We want Telford and Wrekin Council to adopt our road. This maintenance charge is unfair. What were Telford and Wrekin Council thinking when they agreed it in the planning permission? It's a two-tiered council tax. There are two classes of home owner in Telford now. Tonight has been really good though. We've spoken to loads of people from Holyhead Road and Golf-Links Lane. We told them what to ask the builders. Some even came back out to tell us what the sales reps said. We're in touch with people nationally on this and locally as well. We linked up with a group from Lawley tonight. They're having the same problems. So are Nettlefolds in Hadley. We won't stop until Sankey Drive is adopted by Telford and Wrekin council. We were here tonight. We were at Hadley and Leegomery Parish Council last week and we'll keep going until Taylor Wimpey are off our estate.

**Photos:** Angry Sankey Drive Residents picket a Taylor Wimpy consultation held at the Red Lion in Wellington last night. Wednesday 15th June 2016..



Sankey Drive home owners outside Hadley and Leegomery council show court papers issued by landlord Taylor Wimpey's agent over maintenance dispute.



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