Debbie Buscombe	

We had been living in a 3 bed house in Finchingfield and was paying bedroom tax at that time as our son had moved out, combine that with the fact that our then housing association was not doing essential repairs to the property, we felt we had no choice but to downsize to a 2 bed house. We finally managed to find a house in Mapletoft Avenue. The day we viewed the house, there were noises such as children playing in the park and the noise of a neighbour cutting their grass. we viewed the house and given the fact it was in better condition than our previous home and near to town we submitted paperwork for a mutual swap. we moved into the house in July 2022. The night before the move we dropped a couple of items off at the house and that is when we first heard the noise, I quickly found out that it was from the substation. Since a young child I have had tinnitus, I had surgery at 6 years old which included me having surgery in my ears at that time. My hearing loss got progressively worse as I got older. I have been wearing hearing aids for 11 years now and the hospital said the hearing aids would also help mask out my tinnitus. The irony is that I used to spend all day at work as a dental surgery assistant and the noise of the drills and ultrasonic equipment would aggravate my tinnitus, I now do voluntary work in a relatively quiet environment and its now our home environment that is now having an impact on mine and my familys life. I come home to a 24/7 hum. Our daughter aged 12 also suffers from tinnitus, She asks me 'why does that thing hum?'my husband is also affected badly by the noise. The hum can be heard over the television in the bedroom if the window is open. The noise is most noticable in bed at night, it is like having a loud fridge inside your head, I can also hear my high pitched tinnitus as well as the low hum which at times drives me mad. I resort at times to taking my hearing aids out which can help but I then cannot hear what I need to hear.I have to sleep with a window open at night as I have hot flashes due to having a hysterectomy, and it is too hot due to the weather at the moment, Bloor homes have not put air vents above the windows as is found in most new build houses so we dont have the option of using those. Bloor Homes have built the social housing near the substation for a reason, it is well known that social housing tenants often have limited choice in where they live and the type of housing they get allocated, which can lead to a sense of powerlessness and lack of control over their living situation its often a case of put up and shut up. social houses have inferior fixtures and fittings to other houses on new estates and they are situated in the less desirable areas of the estate. Why did Bloor Homes not build their larger houses as you come into the estate near the substation? is this because they would have found it a lot harder trying to sell them? They have built social flats backing directly onto the substation and also some private houses opposite the substation. Would I move through choice? yes but I would have to go through the swapping process again which is not easy. Our daughter could not get into the catchment school so gets free transport as the next nearest school is over 3 miles, if we moved to the other side of town we would no longer be eligible for this. As we are older tenants, two of our children having left home, we intended on staying here long term but the other families will potentially want to upsize as their families grow. If the noise from the substation is not dealt with then it will also have an impact on any future tenants.