

Public Statement: Kate Waters

I live at the front of the Mortimers Gate development so I do not hear the noise from the substation when I'm at home.

However, I hear it regularly when I walk around the area or take my children to the playground. Of course, I find it annoying - a constant, loud hum that seems to get worse the more I try to ignore it.

But this isn't about me personally. Every time I hear it, I feel a deep sense of injustice. For the families who hear this noise every second of every day. Those who bought their homes, trusting that the Council would fulfil their responsibilities and make sure that developers like Bloor are held to the conditions of the relevant planning agreements. Or renters who, due to the current housing crisis, have to put up with this incessant noise because the cost of anywhere else is too high.

That annoying hum has a human cost. People who can't get to sleep. Children who can't concentrate on their school work. Adults who can't enjoy sitting in their garden after a hard day's work and older people who have to turn up their TV during the day just to try and drown out the noise. I know that if I lived close by, I would worry a great deal about whether I would be able to sell my home in the future.

I understand that the cost of fixing this problem is high. But I believe the Council should take responsibility for previous mistakes and reassure residents that it can, and will, hold developers to account. If this problem isn't fixed now, people here in Saffron Walden will suffer the consequences for decades to come.

This noise doesn't affect me personally, but I can't walk past it and do nothing. Those of you here tonight have much greater powers than me to resolve this situation and I sincerely hope you will use your influence to do so.