

Developer ordered to clean up estate

Aug 22 2008 by Dave Black, The Journal

A DEVELOPER has been ordered to rectify a series of failures on a flagship woodland housing project or face legal action by council bosses.

Ho Sanderson has been set a 28-day deadline to get rid of unsightly construction waste left lying on the luxury Hartford Hall Estate near Bedlington, Northumberland.

He has also been given the same length of time to submit detailed plans and timetables for the completion for a catalogue of work which he has failed to carry out.

Planning officials at Wansbeck District Council have warned that failure to comply with the breach-of-conditions notices served last week could lead to the immediate risk of court action.

A company spokeswoman last night said a new planning application would be submitted over the next few weeks to finish the project.

The move comes a month after The Journal revealed how frustrated residents of the 71 houses and apartments at Hartford Hall claimed that Mr Sanderson has gone against a promise to restore the parkland and gardens as a haven for wildlife.

They say his Hartford Hall Estate development company has failed to carry out significant elements of work which they were promised when they bought their expensive homes.

Now Wansbeck Council has taken action following 18 months of discussions with the company over outstanding problems with the development, which saved the listed Georgian mansion from ruin.

The notices served on Mr Sanderson give him 28 days in which to remove all construction waste from the site, including bricks, breezeblocks, pallets, plastic pipes, stone mouldings, fencing and tiles.

They order him to submit plans and timetables for the surfacing and marking out of car parking areas; completion of site access work; drainage, street lighting, landscaping and construction of roads and footpaths and the creation of an equipped and landscaped children's play.

He also has to carry out an approved landscaping scheme for the estate, to be maintained for five years, during the next available planting season.

Christine Purdon, secretary of Hartford Hall residents' association, said yesterday: "The residents are absolutely delighted that the council has served breach-of-conditions notices on the developer, because that is what we wanted to happen. At last we might get the estate we were originally promised."

Last night a spokeswoman for Hartford Hall Estate Ltd said the requirements in the orders would be met through the imminent submission of a planning application for the final phase of the estate's development.

She said: "Over the last 18 months we have been working with Wansbeck Council to meet our obligations on the estate."