

COMPLAINTS – AND A DEMONSTRATION

[Aug 2 2008](#) by Jon Tunney, The Journal

PLANNING permission was granted in 2001 to develop Hartford Hall, its outbuildings and grounds as a luxury housing estate to save the listed Georgian mansion from ruin and remove it from the English Heritage 'at risk' register of historic buildings.

The estate now consists of 71 apartments and houses – eight created in the original hall, 12 in converted outbuildings and 51 in the wooded grounds. In 2005, a number of families listed a catalogue of complaints about their homes. Hartford Hall Estate Ltd has been ordered to pay fines and costs totalling £29,000 after twice being prosecuted by the Environment Agency for breaching rules on sewage effluent discharging into the River Blyth.

Last summer a group of residents staged a demonstration in Bedlington against plans to build a further 30 homes on the estate to raise funds for the completion of the project. The application was withdrawn before being considered by Wansbeck councillors.