

# Concern for future of allotments

**TREASURED allotments and highly valuable open space may be sold off to developers by Thames Water.**

by **STEPHEN MOORE**

stephen.moore@archant.co.uk

The utility company wants to sell a chunk of the covered Fortis Green reservoir between Woodside Avenue and Lauradale Road, Muswell Hill – potentially worth millions of pounds to developers.

Thames Water has written to residents saying part of the site, approximately two and a half acres, is “surplus to requirements” and “is in the process of being marketed”.

While it is understood an archery group that uses the land will not be affected, it is unclear how long allotment holders will be able to hold on to their patches.

The space is defined by the council as having “an important local function,” and its “open nature should be preserved”.

Thames Water will auction the land off “as an allotment site”, a spokeswoman said, but local politicians fear this is unlikely to stop developers trying their luck.

Councillor Martin Newton (Liberal

Democrat), of Fortis Green ward, said: “The Fortis Green reservoir is a wonderful open space, much loved by residents and home to many residents’ allotments.

“We want Thames Water to come clean on when they want to get rid of this land and we want the council to ensure that this will be protected from developers.”

He added: “With allotment space already at a premium in Haringey, with residents having to wait years for a plot, the allotments need to be saved.”

Lynne Featherstone, the Lib-Dem MP for Hornsey and Wood Green, said: “Developers must be licking their lips at the prospect of a large site coming up for grabs in a prime residential area.

“What the council must do is protect this valuable open space. Discussion with Thames Water must happen immediately to make sure that Haringey does not lose further precious green space.”

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