ELEPHANT & CASTLE

Labour ‘making North Korea look like a thriving democracy!’ - Lib Dems

By Amelia Burr
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Labour council leader Fiona Colley said: “To call Cllr Neale’s comments absurd would be understating the idiocy of his comparison. I do wonder what the Korean community of Southwark will make of the Lib Dems’ flippant sentiments.”

KOREA POLICITAN: Lib Dems accused council of ignoring democratic vote

THE COUNCIL is selling off valuable plots of land in Elephant & Castle for a fraction of their worth, according to community campaigners.

As a hearing to get the council and developers, Lend Lease, to release documents detailing the sale of the 23 acre Heygate site for £50million has been set for February, local campaigners are accusing the council of having a fire sale with land in Elephant & Castle.

A network of local residents and traders in Elephant & Castle called 35percent, and the Elephant Amenities Network, are asking why the council seemingly sold land for between £2.17 – 4.64million per acre when other developers have paid up to £26million per acre for other plots in the area.

Land registry documents show that the new owners of the shopping centre, Delancey, paid £40million for what they are calling ‘Tribeca Square’, to property developer, Eadon Ltd.

The 1.5 acre site is located between the shopping centre and the Heygate and was sold off by the council for £16million in 2007, meaning Eadon Ltd made a whopping £22million profit.

“The council absolutely refutes any allegations of underselling land at Elephant and Castle. “Every site is different and it is disingenuous to compare one sale against another, particularly at different times of the property cycle.”

The less than ten per cent affordable housing allocation on the new Heygate was a “good deal” according to Cllr Colley, confirmed by an independent ‘viability process’, because developers Lend Lease would have to spend a significant amount on developing the site.

Council sells off land at low prices and developers pocket the profits, says campaigners

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New plan points to Old Kent Road for Bakerloo extension

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THE BAKERLOO line looks likely to go down the Old Kent Road, if a new plan by the Mayor is anything to go by.

The Old Kent Road and Elephant & Castle were both designated as “Opportunity Areas” in the Mayor’s revised London Plan last week, which is like a development blueprint for the city.

“Opportunity Areas” are locations earmarked for significant housing developments to accommodate a population which is growing “much faster than anticipated,” now expanding by 87,000 people every year instead of 51,000 previously.

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Southwark Council opened the online poll last month to let the public suggest names for Elephant & Castle’s new shopping centre, opening in spring 2015. Earlier this month, the council announced it would be named ‘The Castle’.

But soon emerged that the top choice was actually ‘Circuit’, with ‘The Castle’ in just third place.

Southwark Lib Dem councillor Graham Neale said: “The council’s Labour bosses ran a poll to find a name for the new leisure centre, then completely ignored it and made it up themselves. Sometimes the decision-making at Southwark Council makes

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