

FAO
Jon Dean
For Letters Page (31-7-14)
Word Count = 360

I really must congratulate the Gazette on its long awaited exposure of Islington's scaffolding scandal (Help at hand to tackle "phantom scaffolding" (24-7-2014), along with Mr Coopers excellent work in providing the essential data and details highlighting the magnitude of the problem.

Unfortunately, this problem is allegedly endemic to the whole of Islington's housing stock...which somewhat bizarrely, the council has chosen to completely ignore.

My personal scaffolding problems are a perfect example of the atrocious service that residents are currently receiving from our extremely well paid councillors and council officers: -

My roof leak was first reported on the 5th February (2014), updated on the council's system on 25th May (2014), and subsequently removed from the list at some point thereafter...!!!

On the 3rd July (2014), totally unannounced, scaffolders arrived and erected a three floor "tower" on the front of the building, a process that took just over one hour (I timed and photographed it).

A week later, on the 10th July, two council operatives arrived (again, unannounced) and spent one hour (I timed and photographed again) putting felt patches over the, allegedly, affected area of the roof.

Since I am at home most of the day, I can state unequivocally that there was no further activity, either on the scaffolding, or the roof, for the next two weeks. (Strange but significantly notable, all requests to allow my surveyor to inspect the roof, before, during and after, were consistently refused?)

At midday on Thursday 24th July (Just a few hours after the "Phantom Scaffolding" article appeared in the Gazette) a scaffolding team arrived (once again-unannounced) and removed the structure in less than one hour, (once again, timed and photographed by me).

So...for what realistically amounts to the use of a small scaffolding tower for one hours work...a senior council officer informs me that "*At present the rate for atypical of the scaffold for Pleasant Place is £1677.22.*", and that is *only* for the hire of the scaffolding!

If you have / had scaffolding problems, I urge you to call the helpline on 0203 239 2070 and help stamp out this disgraceful practice.

Dr Potter
Chairman Islington Leaseholders Association (ILA)

FAO
Peter Gruner
For Letters Page (1-8-14)
Word Count = 360

Phantom scaffolding!

It goes up, it's never used, it's in place for months, it's removed, and Islington's residents grossly over pay for the privilege of storing it, in situ, free of charge for the owners!

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