

## Council Is Not Forcing People From Their Homes

August 2003

Manningham Council has no plans to force people from their homes despite the introduction of a Public Acquisition Overlay (PAO) as part of Amendment C30 to the Manningham Planning Scheme.

The amendment is a necessary requirement of the Doncaster Hill Strategy to provide for future open space and traffic works.

Doncaster Hill is a 20-year Strategy and therefore there is no rush for Council to acquire any of the properties identified in the amendment.

Manningham Mayor, Cr John Bruce said PAO's are a relatively common planning tool used by all levels of government to set aside land necessary for future activities.

"Manningham Council believes it is important to be upfront with residents and notify them as soon as possible of any future plans that may impact on them or the community.

"Council will not force any residents from their land. We want to work in partnership with affected residents to ensure that this process minimises any impact on the property owners."

The PAO means that Council has first call on any of the affected properties when the owners agree to sell them.

The PAO covers 13 properties; eight for open space provision and five for road works. Nine properties are located within the Doncaster Hill Activity Centre boundary while the remaining four are in close proximity.

Affected residents have been notified and individual discussions have been and will continue to be held with them.

Owners have the right to determine when and if they wish to vacate and Council has said that it does not intend to compulsorily acquire the nominated properties.

Cr Bruce said Council wants the process to be accomplished through negotiation and strong communication between both parties.

The selection of these properties is based on expert opinions from Council's traffic engineer and traffic consultant report in terms of the road works and by Council's urban design co-ordinator for open space provision.

The construction of additional access roads and the creation of additional open space within the Doncaster Hill precinct are required to minimise the impact on residents in the area surrounding Doncaster Hill through the increased density of development within Doncaster Hill.

Broader consultation is currently underway in relation to the Amendment C30 process that includes the Public Acquisition Overlay proposal.