



An artist's impression of how the Borthwick Wharf, on the left, and Paynes Wharf next door will look

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Wharf fight ends in defeat

THE long-running battle to save a historic wharf is over - and has ended in defeat.

Following the controversial quashing of its earlier approval, Greenwich council's planning board re-approved plans to redevelop Borthwick Wharf and restore listed Paynes Wharf in Deptford.

The plans submitted by P&B Developments include 247 homes in blocks rising to 18 storeys, an art gallery and shopping area with restaurants.

The council decided in August to re-run the planning process after The Creekside Forum who have been campaigning to save the 1930s warehouse applied to the High Court for a judicial review of the decision.

This was on the grounds that

By **MANDY LITTLE**

former chairwoman of the board Councillor Maureen O'Mara was a council-appointed member of the Twinkle Park Trust and the community-run park was set to receive £10,000 from the previous developer George Wimpey.

There was concern over prejudicial interest as the trust wrote letters in support of the application. Cllr O'Mara admitted she should not have taken part in the decision and said it was a "genuine oversight".

Following the planning board meeting on December 20, Mark O'Grady, of P&B Developments, confirmed construction work would begin in the spring. Demolition of Borthwick,

designed by RIBA gold medalist architect Sir Edwin Cooper, is nearly complete.

He said it would bring many positive changes to the area including bringing around 100 new jobs.

The scheme designed by Assael Architects would also open up the waterfront to the public which has been closed off for 150 years.

He said: "We are delighted - after many months of hard work and consultation - to have won permission to put our development proposals into action. Paynes and Borthwick wharves have the potential to become a stunning new cultural destination within a very short time."

He added the company would be working closely with artists and members of Deptford's cultur-

al community to bring life into the buildings.

Bill Ellson, from the Creekside Forum, said: "We are not exactly chuffed but the planning application still has to be approved by Ken Livingstone who still has more questions to ask about it."

He added: "There will be tower blocks going up all over Greenwich now."

"The council has driven the coach and horses through its own policies to restrict density. They will not be able to turn other developers down if they have allowed it at Borthwick."

He said the group was hugely sad that the building was being demolished but pleased to note it was proving to be a difficult job.

It includes six heavy load-bearing floors reinforced with steel.

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