

50,000 are expected at fireworks

Alexandra Palace has revealed its plans for Bonfire Night this year.

Organisers expect 50,000 Londoners to attend the display, which will also include a German beer festival, a funfair, bonfires, laser shows, ice skating, craft beer and street food.

It is the biggest firework event in the capital, and will this year be held on the night of Saturday, November 7.

There will also be parades by Mutoid Waste with their Mad Max-style creations.

They entertained at Glastonbury Festival and featured as part of the closing ceremony for the 2012 Olympics.

A dedicated family area will host a children's funfair, independent food stalls, fully stocked bars including delicious mulled wine, face painting and treats for the little ones.

DJs from Club De Fromage will be spinning tunes at the indoors German Bier Festival, with an army of Bavarian waitresses and a oompah band from 3pm, while the ice rink will be open all day.

"We want to make this a real family event, not just a fireworks display," said Simon Fell, head of events at Alexandra Palace.

'You are not Nimbys' architect tells Stop the Block campaign

Protesters urged to join forces against West Hampstead tower proposal

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Furious residents in West Hampstead say they will fight Camden Council "tooth and nail" to stop four tower blocks being built in West End Lane.

Members of Lymington Road Residents Association say that if plans to build 200 units in blocks of up to nine stories are approved, their lives would be blighted with noise during the construction process and the shadow cast by the towers would have a huge detrimental affect on their homes.

They said although developer A2Dominion attempted to "sell them" the proposal through an exhibition of artwork, the images have left them "horrified".

In a packed meeting last night, leading architect and campaigner George Turner, of Reclaim London, encouraged the group to take collective action with similar campaign groups and to take heart from those who had been successful in their own battles with plan-



■ Reclaim London's George Turner at the meeting, right

ning departments.

Mr Turner told them: "Demand for these kinds of luxury homes, which cost 22 times the average salary, is not coming from the domestic market, but from huge influxes of foreign capital."

He said he thought one reason councils are approving plans for "inappropriate" tower developments was because of a "pervasive ideology" that in times of economic crisis, it is better to build anything than risk building nothing.

He argued that this was a falsehood in areas such as West Hampstead, because developers would always want to build there.

Mr Turner assured residents: "It seems like these days every community group is tarred with the NIMBY brush, and it's a very easy attack. All of these groups are actually fighting for a common cause, but they are just doing it separately."

Bridget Dunn who is co-ordinating the Stop the Blocks Campaign, said: "These are not homes for Londoners. This is not social housing for families and ordinary working people. This is another example of corporate greed, and the council planning department shouldn't even be entertaining it."

"The developer has totally ignored the many objections sent in by residents. We plan to protest and make our feelings known at their next two exhibitions."

Revised plans will be displayed at Hampstead Synagogue on September 10 and at Sidings Community Centre on September 12.

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