

Wednesday, March 28, 2007



IT IS a well-known fact that we are a city that despises queuing and waiting.

As I waited in the queue this morning in my local Tesco Metro, one particular young woman took an inordinate amount of time to put away her purse and organise her belongings.

I stood there with a scowl deepening on my face so, imagine my surprise when the gentleman in front of me beamed at her when she turned around and stalked off. Was this because he was far more patient than me?

Was it because he had that extra dose of chivalry I often hanker after? No, it was because the woman was beautiful.

I'm pretty sure a mere mortal would have been shot a murderous look for holding up the queue but this woman got a big smile and a genial nod.

This made me think about just how much beautiful women can get away with and how they are often treated better because of the way they look.

A friend once told me that men are easy to manipulate and that you just had to know what to say and how to move to make them "putty in your hands".

Beautiful women don't even have to try. These perpetually immaculate women are allowed to be inconsiderate, dismissive and even rude.

Of course when they choose to turn on the charm they are able to dodge speeding penalties, gain entry to exclusive venues, bag free goods and generally behave in any way they want.

This is unfair but it proves that whilst all men are born equal, women are certainly not!

Kia Abdullah is a 24-year-old author from Limehouse.

Her first novel, *Life, Love and Assimilation*, was a huge success and she has already embarked on her second book, a crime thriller. Send your comments to kia.abdullah@gmail.com

'We feel betrayed'

By **BEN WELCH**
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DISGRUNTLED Docklanders have accused a developer of "greed" and "betrayal" over plans for an eight-storey block of flats.

Barratt wants to build the properties on an historic site in Leamouth.

But people in Virginia Quay are opposed to the development, and at least 90 furious locals have already signed a petition against it.

Virginia Quay, which incorporates 127 homes and looks out across the Thames at the O2, was completed last year.

Campaigners say Barratt was granted planning permission on the condition it created three open areas on the river bank – at Settlers Monument (which marks the place where the original boats left to settle in Virginia, America) and the Meridian Path.

It was also supposed to create a

viewing point and tear down a temporary sales office known as the Rotunda, which it built for the Virginia Quay development.

But the building is still standing and no viewing point has been constructed.

The campaign group claims their 50-plus members were sold homes on the strength of the views and open spaces.

They therefore claim the proposed scheme is a "reneege on promises".

Petitioners believe the new development would not only block their view, but overlook existing flats and houses and impose on the nearby East India Bird Reserve.

They are also worried about lorries rumbling through narrow estate roads, past a children's playground.

A spokesman for the campaign group said: "It is a betrayal. It is pure greed. Barratt is meant to be Britain's premier house builder, but their actions speak louder than their words.

"Our message to people thinking of buying a Barratt home in the Elektron or anywhere is this: you can't trust Barratt, so don't buy

Barratt."

Residents have been posting comments on an online forum, www.virginia-quay.org/forum.

A Barratt spokesman said: "Planning consent for Virginia Quay was not granted on the basis of views, open areas or adjoining sites. Those residents who object to the new proposal have clearly said they are aware the Rotunda is a temporary sales building.

"For our part, we have always been careful to describe it as such, so it is entirely incorrect to suggest that our new proposal represents a betrayal of trust or a broken promise."

Peter Golds, councillor for Blackwall and Cubitt Town, said: "Purchasers at Virginia Quay were told that there was a condition on the Rotunda, which would see it used for community use when the development was complete. Barratt have decided to use the site for a further development."

People have until April 4 to contact Tower Hamlets Council with any objections.

Ballymore plan

MORE than 3,000 jobs could be up for grabs in Canary Wharf if a new development gets planning permission.

Developer Ballymore has submitted an application to Tower Hamlets Council for a new office development next to South Quay DLR station. If completed, as many as 3,500 new jobs would be created.

The project would comprise of 16 and 26-storey towers, cafes, shops and restaurants, a dockside walkway and a landscaped plaza. A previous application for a 25-storey building was given the greenlight in 2003. Permission has already been granted for a 44-storey retail and housing scheme to the south east of the site.

Developer Squire and Partners have also been given permission to increase the number of dwellings from 700 to 802. The plans also include two eight-storey buildings, cafes, shops and restaurants. For the project to go ahead the project must also feature affordable housing and improvements to transport.

New home owners would move in during 2010.

DID YOU KNOW..



Virginia Quay, in Leamouth, homes the first Settlers Monument. The original monument was first unveiled in 1928 by America's ambassador dedicated to the first settlers who had sailed forth from the Thames at Blackwall in December 1606 in three small merchant ships. King James I had commanded them to bring him treasure and gold from the New World, the venture being financed by The Virginia Company of London.

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