



A40 FIASCO

Western Avenue Blighted As Government Destroys Homes

THEN CANCELS ROAD SCHEME

Two hundred homes flattened. Families in private rented houses moved out with no right to re-housing. A large area of East Acton left derelict. Remaining residents unable to sell their houses. No improvement until 1998 at the earliest.

This is the result of the government starting work on improvements to the A40 Western Avenue between Old Oak Common Lane and Horn Lane, and then cancelling the project.

The minister responsible: Sir George Young. The minister who did not

consider resigning: Sir George Young. The local MP: Sir George Young. The Conservative MP who has abandoned West London for a safer seat at the next election: Sir George Young. Would Sir George have made this decision if he had not already lined up a safer seat, and was standing again in Acton?

The government's decision to halt the road improvements prompted anger from Hammersmith Labour MP Clive Soley who branded it 'mind-blowing incompetence'.

'Whole areas of Shepherds Bush and Acton have been blighted by this road



Homes on Western Avenue boarded up before they were demolished.

scheme which has now been shelved', said Mr Soley. 'There is an air of dereliction and decay as houses that the government compulsorily purchased are lying empty or have been demolished.'

Eyesore

'This has consequences for investment in local businesses and drastically reduces the quality of life for the remaining residents', he added. 'The Department of Transport

has created an eyesore in the middle of West London and is now refusing to fund the rest of the work.'

'The Tories are desperately trying to scrape together enough public money to fund tax cuts as bribes to voters in the run up to the general election, and this road scheme has become one of the casualties of the process', said Mr Soley.

'Labour opposed the road scheme at the planning stage. However, once the plans were approved we pressed for it to be started and finished as soon as possible in order to minimise disruption', explained Cllr Philip Portwood whose Victoria ward borders the road. 'The government has produced the worst possible result for everyone.'

