

# Kilburn Times

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# END OF ROAD FOR CAMPUS

LORRAINE KING

## Award-winning site to be abandoned

COLLEGE chiefs are planning to dump an award-winning campus three months after they 'suspended' lessons there for a year, the *Times* can reveal.

The College of North West London (CNWL) will either put the building in Priory Park Road, Kilburn, on the market or up for rent despite promising that its closure was temporary.

The award-winning building cost the college £5.5 million to build and was opened just three years ago.

In 2008, the building scooped a coveted architecture award.

Since then the educational institution, which has two other campuses in Dudden Hill Lane, Willesden and Wembley Park Drive, Wembley, has made sweeping cuts across the board, including axing courses and mak-

ing scores of staff redundant, in an effort to plug a financial hole left by a slash in its funding.

The decision to renege on its promise and abandon the building has raised eyebrows as the college has steadfastly refused to sell Crescent House, an empty seven-storey block it owns in Wembley.

The building has racked-up about £120,000 in maintenance costs since it was vacated in 2008.

An email sent from Vicky Fagg, CNWL's principal, to her staff claims the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review has left her with no other choice.

She added: 'There has already been some interest expressed by other parties in the building and we hope that proper marketing will generate wider potential interest.'

In June, more than 100 people took part in a protest in Kilburn organised by the University and College Union (UCU), against the closure of the campus.

Indro Sen, CNWL's branch secretary of UCU told the *Times* he was extremely concerned that the college planned to turn its back on the campus.

He said: 'It will be interesting to know why the college is selling the Kilburn building rather than the unused block in Wembley'

'We have invited the college's management to discuss their property strategy with us fully as we do not know how they came to this decision.'

'We (UCL) are also considering making a representation to any organisations that the college have to seek permission from to sell the building.'

Ms Fagg told the *Times* the decision to sell the campus was

not taken lightly and any monies raised will be invested in their remaining two sites.

She added: 'The sites at Wembley and Willesden, have been identified as being the most sustainable to secure our finances and increase the number of students studying at the college.'

'In light of the spending review the issues with the Kilburn campus are likely to exacerbate rather than resolve the situation and the college has therefore decided it must take action now.'

'Essentially the Kilburn site is still new and is ready to sell to a prospective bidder whereas the Wembley campus is not.'



Dumped: The campus and inset Vicky Fagg

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