

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

### Sign our petition

sign **online** at [www.nolondon2012.org](http://www.nolondon2012.org) or **download** a copy and ask your neighbours and colleagues to show their opposition

### Send a letter or fax

Send letters to:  
Nawal EI MOUTAWAKEL  
Chair, Olympic Games 2012 Evaluation  
Commission  
International Olympic Committee  
Château de Vidy  
1007 Lausanne, Switzerland  
Fax: 00 41 21 621 62 16

### E-mail the IOC President

[jacques.rogge@olympic.org](mailto:jacques.rogge@olympic.org)

### Join the campaign's organising group

Ring 0208 802 0773 or visit our website  
for more details.

## Critical Mass

### 18 February 2005

### Cycle against the Olympic Bid!

Meet **6pm** outside the GLA's HQ at City  
Hall • [www.criticalmasslondon.org.uk](http://www.criticalmasslondon.org.uk)

## Press Conference

### Monday 14 February

11am • National Union of  
Journalists headquarters

5th Floor Meeting Room, Headland  
House, 308-312 Gray's Inn Road  
London WC1X

## PROTEST 19 Feb 2005

The International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Evaluation Commission will be visiting London from 16-19 February and one of the key issues they will be assessing is the level of public support for London's bid. By taking part in the protest on February 19, you can help to show the IOC the level of opposition to hosting the Olympics in London.

**Assemble 1pm • Stratford Station •  
Meridian Square, London E15**

## Boat Regatta

**1pm • Sat 12 February**  
**Cruising around the  
rivers condemned by  
the Olympic Bid**

**Meet:** Bow Flyover  
**Nearest tube:** Bromley By Bow /  
Bow Church

**Bring your boat, dingy or join us  
on foot.**

**Walthamstow Public Meeting**  
**Thurs 10 February**  
**Should Walthamstow**  
**Back or Scrap the Bid?**

**Friends Meeting House**  
**18 Jewel Rd, London E17 • 7.30pm**  
**See our website for details of  
forthcoming local meetings**

# Scrap the Bid

**We'll all end up paying for  
London's billion-pound Olympic bid**

**Ordinary Londoners will be asked to pay** £1.5 billion for a special 'Olympic lottery' and up to £550 million in extra council tax. **The environment will pay** as important wildlife habitats are replaced with a 'landscaped park' and new stadiums that will eventually become the property of big business. **Tenants and residents will be forced to pay** as rents are forced up and greedy landlords make a killing. **Community sport will pay** as funds are diverted to a few elite athletes in the search for more medals.

**SHOW YOUR OPPOSITION TO THE BID  
WHEN THE IOC VISITS LONDON**

## PROTEST 19 Feb 2005

**Meet 1pm outside  
Stratford Station  
Meridian Square  
London E15**

[www.NoLondon2012.org](http://www.NoLondon2012.org)  
**Together We CAN Stop  
London's Olympic Bid**

# Oppose London's Olympic Bid

London Mayor Ken Livingstone and London bid chair Lord Coe want the Olympic committee choosing a host city for 2012 to believe that everyone in the capital supports them, but it just isn't true. More and more people are starting to realise that the positive picture they have been given is based on little more than an expensive myth.

## London Olympics Myth #1 The Games will help the regeneration of east London

The government promised us the Millennium Dome would regenerate east London, but the Dome lies empty and abandoned. They promised that a new stadium at Picketts Lock in Enfield for the 2005 World Athletics Championship would regenerate the Lee Valley, but it had to be scrapped because it ran massively over budget. Now we are told that preparations for an Olympic Games in London will, cost an astronomical £2.375 billion between 2005 and 2012 that, too, will have regenerate one of the poorest communities in the country. Of course, this assumes redevelopment manages to stick to its budget. When Manchester hosted the Commonwealth Games, the government was forced to provide an emergency cash injection of £105m twelve months beforehand. According to the Auditor-General of New South Wales, the Sydney Olympics in 2000 cost over twice the pre-bid figures, whilst Athens in 2004 will be at least four times as high as the bid committee's initial budget.

All this money will be spent on a sporting event that we will have no control over. Imagine the improvements to hospitals, schools, the environment and

employment prospects that these huge sums could provide. The trouble is that local people are always excluded from decisions about the way their neighbourhoods and communities are managed, which may explain why millions of pounds has already been spent on 'transforming' east London and yet unemployment and poor health are still such major problems. The difference with hosting the Olympics is that under the International Olympic Committee rules, we are paying and will keep on paying whatever it costs to be ready on time.

## London Olympics Myth #2 The Olympic Bid will lead to environmental improvements in the Lower Lea Valley

The development of an Olympic Park has been presented as "1,500 landscaped acres" representing "one of the biggest new city centre parks in Europe for 200 years." This ignores the fact that much of the Lower Lea Valley is an extensive network of waterways with important wildlife habitats on a key migratory route. In addition, the Olympics will be used as an excuse to over-ride public concerns about environmentally damaging projects such as the three new runways at Heathrow and Stansted that BAA will argue are suddenly 'essential'.

## London Olympics Myth #3 The Olympics will lead to new jobs and affordable homes

People in east London no longer believe the promises made about the new jobs that will 'trickle down' from construction-led 'regeneration'. Similar promises were made about Canary Wharf, about the Millennium Dome and very specifically about the ExCel Centre in Canning Town and all have proved to be false. What's more, jobs will also be lost due to the relocation and closure of companies currently situated in the Lea Valley. Any Games is also likely to have an enormous impact on tenants in east London. Newham, for example, has a high proportion of rented accommodation and many properties have been bought to let. In 2000, Sydney saw rents increase and greedy landlords evict tenants in the lead up to the Olympics. The influx of those who can no longer afford the exorbitant price of a loft conversion near the City will push out those who live in east London because they can't afford anywhere else. If London hosts the Olympics in 2012, we will be left with sports facilities that will be handed over to private interests, no guarantees of new jobs and the prospect that poor, working class and black communities will be forced out of the communities they live in.

## London Olympics Myth #4 The Games would boost tourism

Unlike Sydney before 2000, London is already a tourist city. It is also one of the most expensive cities in the world with an inadequate transport system. Rather than spending astronomical amounts on

a two-week event, improving the Tube and rail network would provide a bigger boost for the tourist industry. Those who benefit from most from tourism, of course, are not people in east London or low-paid hotel workers but big hotel chains like the Hilton Group and Radisson, who are enthusiastic backers of the London bid

## London Olympics Myth #5 The Olympics will lead to encourage young people into sport

In reality, across the country money for sport at a community level will be drained away. The government has admitted that £340 million will be channelled from the existing sports lottery distributors. The emphasis between 2005 and 2012 will be primarily on a small number of elite athletes, enabling the UK to finish among the top five nations in the medal table, not on encouraging young people to participate in sport. Equally, it is difficult to imagine the billion-dollar Olympic franchise, rocked by one scandal after another, including bribery, drugs, influence peddling and abuse of athletes by Olympic coaches, being less of an incentive for young people to take part in sporting activities.

More detailed information on the campaign against the Olympic Bid can be found on our website at

[www.nolondon2012.org](http://www.nolondon2012.org)

We urge you to look beyond the expensive myths and see the huge damage that will be done to London if it becomes an Olympic host city in 2012