

SPANISH HOMES SALE COMES TO LONDON GATWICK

2-DAY PROPERTY SHOW

Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd June
Renaissance Hotel, London Gatwick
 Povey Cross Road, Horley, Surrey RH6 0BE
 10am-5pm • Free Admission • Free Parking

Thinking of buying a property in Spain?

Come and see us this weekend at the Renaissance Hotel. View a wide range of freehold properties in Spain. Attention to detail assured. Banking assistance, legal assistance and full after-sales service from one of the market leaders.

SOUTHERN COSTA BLANCA & COSTA CALIDA

Prices from approx. £65,000. Low cost 3/4/7 day flexible viewing tours. Our European mortgage specialist present all weekend. Our pledge to you: Lowest Price Guaranteed (on new build only).

NEXT WEEKEND • SATURDAY 28TH & SUNDAY 29TH JUNE • 10AM-5PM

Innova Park Corner of Solar Way Enfield EN3 7XY	Hilton Hotel Great Western Way, Swindon Just off M4 Junction 16	Luton Travel Inn Osbourne Road Luton LU1 3HD
--	--	---

CALL NOW FOR A FREE BROCHURE

Amba Sun International S.L. 
 NEW, RESALE AND "KEY IN HAND"

9 Boldmere Road, Boldmere, Sutton Coldfield B73 5UY **0121 354 9796**

THE AIR BERLIN CITY SHUTTLE



- Berlin-Tegel
- Dortmund
- Düsseldorf (MGL)
- Hamburg (City)
- Hanover
- Münster/Osnabrück
- Nuremberg
- Paderborn/Lippstadt

from £ **19** (one-way)
London ↔ Germany daily

Fed up with no frills flights? Why don't you try the Air Berlin City Shuttle – the all inclusive airline with no frills prices, starting from London (STN).

→ **NEW! Vienna (Austria) via Dortmund from £60 (one-way)**

→ Fly with one of the youngest fleets in Europe!

Information and booking through your travel agent, on the internet or call us direct:

airberlin.com
0870-7 38 88 80

AIR-BERLIN
 We fly Europe

CHILDREN LOSE OUT DUE TO GRANTS LOOPHOLE



Child's play: but there are fears that some youngsters are suffering because of the way nurseries are being funded

Nurseries being closed down in fight for funding

By Ben Leapman
 Political Reporter

Anger at 'perverse' move

CHILDREN are losing out on nursery education in a battle over Government cash.

An investigation by MPs found that a ministerial initiative to boost the number of nurseries is leading to some being shut down.

The problem centres on Whitehall grants worth a total of £1 billion for local councils to build and run new childcare centres.

Because the money comes directly from the Government, some councils have taken advantage by closing their own existing nurseries, which have to be paid for out of local taxation.

But children are losing out because, while old nurseries are closed, there is no guarantee councils will succeed in their bid for grants to build new ones. And, even if they do, it could be many years before they open.

A Labour-dominated Commons committee will call on ministers to close the loophole, arguing that shutting nurseries while opening new ones nearby would breed cynicism about Labour's efforts to improve public services.

The MPs spotted the manoeuvre in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, and fear it may be being repeated across Britain.

The council insists the money saved will be ploughed back into classroom spending. Opposition parties will seize on the investiga-

MAXILLA Nursery Centre in Ladbroke Grove is one of two being closed by Kensington and Chelsea council.

Chairman of the governors Jeremy Steel called the council's decision "extraordinarily perverse". There are 52 children in the nursery who will be affected by the closure at Christmas.

Mr Steel said: "The council claim the closure is for economic reasons but they will have to build a new nursery centre building so I can't see how they are going to make a great saving."

"They claim it will save between £50,000 and £70,000 a year but as we know it's peanuts."

Kensington and Chelsea council defended its decision to

tion by the Work and Pensions select committee to claim increased Government spending cannot guarantee better services.

Ministers are putting pressure on councils to halt the closures.

Chancellor Gordon Brown announced last year that he would more than double the Government's spending on nurseries and childcare in three years, from £600 million last year to £1.6 billion in 2005. The Pre-School

By Rebecca Mowling

withdraw funding from Maxilla and Ainsworth Nursery, also in Ladbroke Grove.

It says the children can attend other nurseries in the borough and the total saving of shutting the centres will be £280,000 which will go into classroom spending on older children and those with learning disabilities.

The council also confirmed it will seek extra Government funding for new nursery school provision, but no figures have been discussed.

Leader Merrick Cockell said: "Yes, we will unashamedly be applying for new funding because, as the Government knows, we have the proven ability to spend it wisely for the benefit of children."

Learning Alliance told the Commons committee that there was an "overwhelming argument" for funding nurseries through a single Government scheme rather than "a lot of disparate initiatives".

The MPs' report, published next week, will welcome the Government's commitment to improving pre-school childcare, but will question whether all the money is being well spent.

RAC sees red as buses jump lights

ONE in five London bus drivers jump red lights, an RAC study reveals today.

Researchers also found that half of cyclists in the capital ran lights. Across Britain one in 10 road users did so. The RAC Foundation today

By David Williams
 Motoring Editor

called on police to install more cameras at traffic lights, and prosecute offenders as ruthlessly as those caught speeding. Researchers observed 1,036 vehicles in London

one day last week, and more in Glasgow. Of the buses they saw, 20 per cent put passengers in danger by running lights.

The number of cyclists caught also concerned the RAC. Its psychologist Conrad King said: "Lack of adequate policing has

meant some cyclists see themselves as beyond the law." Foundation road safety manager Kevin Delaney said the figures were "alarming", adding: "Congestion's frustrating road users, but ignoring lights is a foolish way to beat the clock."

372.216.MAX

M
C
K

Glenn Copus