

GARA email - planning application 'live', 13-Mar-11

Dear all,

1. Planning application is now 'live'

Camden has notified residents bordering the site about the planning application to develop the reservoir site (copy of Camden's letter attached to this email).

We have 3 weeks to respond (Camden have said that they will "try to take into account" letters received after the 21 days). Every individual should respond, not just one per household. Letters from children are valuable too.

You can write a letter, or fill in the attached form, or comment online.

You can deliver your comments by post to "London Borough of Camden, Development Control Team, FREEPOST LON14608, London WC1H 8BR" or by email to env.devcon@camden.gov.uk quoting 2011/0395/P in the subject line. For clarity, please start your letters with "I am writing to object to ...".

You can see the planning application at the [Camden planning website](#) and search for application number 2011/0395/P or use the link from our own website www.gara-westhampstead.co.uk).

2. GARA EGM held on Thursday 3rd March 2011

Thank you to the c.60 people who gave up an evening to come along.

We described the planning process and the content of Linden Wates's (LW) planning application. We explained the key points from the professional advice that GARA has commissioned. And we discussed and rejected LW's offer of a covenant to prevent further development in exchange for GARA's support for their current proposals.

GARA remains committed to habitat protection; upholding Camden's planning policy; and objecting to any development of the reservoir site.

3. Key points to raise when objecting to the planning application

At the EGM we said we would circulate some key points. Here are the headlines [details circulated to members but excluded from website – please get in touch if you want to know more].

Planning Strategy

- The reservoir site is designated as Private Open Space and a Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI).
- Camden's policy is to protect Open Space and not to grant planning permission for developments would harm SNCIs.

The Reservoir Structure

- The argument that the reservoir roof is close to collapse is immaterial.

Ecology

- The SNCI listing states that “The site has the only known population of Slow Worms in Camden”. These are a protected species.
- While LW has carried out reptile surveys and proposed a slow worm translocation plan as required, there are significant shortcomings in their surveys and proposals.

Transport

- While LW has carried out some analysis of traffic impacts as required, there are significant shortcomings in their surveys and conclusions.

Environmental Impact Assessment

We have yet to assess LW’s Environmental Impact Assessment.

4. And finally ...

Away from the reservoir, thank you and well done to Friends of Fortune Green – the daffodils look wonderful again, and we look forward to the improvements that are under way – just shows what a local community can achieve.

--

Yours,
David Yass
Chair, Gondar and Agamemnon Residents Association