
From: Matt Cooper (Cllr)
Sent: 28 November 2023 20:40
To: Daren Zuk; Planning
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Supporting Application 2023/3861/P

Dear Darren and Planning team,

I am writing to register my support for application 2023/3861/P. As a councillor for Primrose Hill, and a long-term Primrose Hill resident before that, I know how important the hill is to many in the local community as well as Camden as a whole. Access to green space is vital, especially for the most vulnerable in our community. Camden Council rightly pushes for as much accessible green space as possible across the borough and this benefits everybody.

However, all green spaces need to be managed in a way that adds to the community rather than detracts. Sadly, Primrose Hill has not been managed well in recent years. One of the root causes of the problems in Primrose Hill is a lack of permanent gates. In most open spaces across London gates are used as an important tool – they let local authorities, the police, and other responsible bodies limit access at times when access must be restricted. Gating can be used routinely, as in regular closing times, or on an ad-hoc basis depending on circumstances.

The recent issues in Primrose Hill have really shone a light on the impact of not having a gate in place. Other responses to this application, as well as deputations to the culture and environment committee go into further details, however, it's clear that there have been many situations where simply being able to clear the hill and close it would've benefitted both the residents surrounding the park as well as the park users inside.

Recently, and recognising the need for gates, Royal Parks have been closing the park at limited times only during the summer. This closure has been enforced using unsightly fences which are easily broken and diminish the landscape. The Planning Application before you simply seeks to replace those unpleasant fences with proper gates that match the surrounding fences and landscape. Putting all the points regarding closure policies (which are not within the planning remit) aside, I hope the Planning Department can support an application which will significantly improve the landscape of Primrose Hill.

Thank You,

Cllr Matt Cooper (He/him)
Primrose Hill