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From: saranickwood [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 April 2025 14:55
To: Planning
Subject: Application 2024/5407/P Highgate Cemetery

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Dear Planning Manager

I have heard, 2 days ago, from Highgate Cemetery about their planned renovation to the cemetery. I am most distressed and shocked that I have not been informed before. I visited their display of plans on Monday and am devastated.

The retaining wall/shed on the mound, on the East side, is insensitive, intrusive, and I utterly oppose it.

My husband Nicholas Wood, died 4 years ago. We had been married 64 years and his loss is keenly felt. We chose Highgate for its tranquil peace and ecological views, refusing plastic trash on graves, encouraging wild life and assuring us that the mound slope would host lots of wild flowers in the Spring.

The proposed gardeners shed is ugly, 2 storeys high, blocks the magic view over the old cemetery with the dappled light among the trees and ancient head stones, has the appearance of a garage with prison like windows, and creates an urbanised box on the mound. The peace will be shattered by the park's lorries going in and out. Its building will be noisy...I am 86 and wonder how much longer I will be able to sit by my husband's grave which I visit weekly. His death was partially a result of dreadful noise and dust from the renovation of the house attached to ours and it is heavily ironic that RIP will mean rest in polluted noise. I approach his grave past a lovely olive tree under which is a circular seat. This tree is removed in the plans.

If a shed is needed it could be built at the bottom of the path away from the mound, or further along the path, away from the mound. OR a retaining wall can be built and covered with soil so that the flowers will remain. OR At worst it can be a simple retaining wall which will weather in time and grow weeds and moss on its surface. OR The very least Highgate can do is build the shed one storey high so that we retain the open views and tranquil association with the ancient dead of London.

A further consideration is that the view down the path from the Karl Marx tomb will have an intrusive garage like shed poking up, and his actual burial place will lose its quiet, isolated, historical charm.

I wonder how many other grave owners have not been informed at all, or informed too late, as have I. Surely this is illegal. Surely one must be given the chance to object, in time, which I am doing, most strongly and urgently. I have a

horrid feeling that the plans have been done secretly, behind my back, in order to get them passed with the least objection possible.

Please take my views into consideration when considering this application.

Sara Wood .