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**From:** Emily Wood [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 01 April 2025 23:33  
**To:** Planning  
**Cc:** Sara Wood  
**Subject:** Planning application 2024/5407/P Highgate Cemetery

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear Development Manager

I am writing in regard to the planning application 2024/5407/P for development at Highgate Cemetery.

I am a grave owner of my recently deceased father Nicholas Wood of 20 South Hill Park Gardens NW3 2TG. We chose Highgate Cemetery as his last resting place due to the beautiful tranquillity of the setting and the magic of its historic importance. Foxes and badgers visit the graves and birds sing overhead. An olive tree looks over us as we approach my fathers grave.

The planning application has been developed purely on commercial grounds to attract visitors to what should be a place of solitude and rest. The pictures depict happy people chatting with coffees and mobile phones. A café, a community centre, a visitors centre, a ticket hall. This is a commercial application and is not in fitting for a Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation and a site listed at Grade I in Historic England's Register of Historic Parks and Gardens.

The meandering paths are to be replaced with straight roads that loose intimacy.

The gardeners building is an absolute monstrosity that looks like a giant garage. It must not and cannot be built on two stories – blocking the views across the cemetery and changing the setting for the graves in the region to an urban setting. It is in absolute contrast to the gardeners wall it is meant to replicate. In what way does a two-storey garage with prison block windows resemble a 5ft brick garden wall?

If you do nothing else please reduce this building to one-storey or better still get rid of it all together. There was no building here before – it is on consecrated ground and it should not in any way be allowed to be built on in this way. I am absolutely mortified that this truly remarkable, historical, beautiful and tranquil space is being turned into a commercial visitor attraction.

I have not been informed in person of this application. My mother (of NW3 2TG) in copy was sent an email from the cemetery notifying her of the development on the 28<sup>th</sup> March 3 months after their closing date for application consultations. The email stated: *Despite our consultation efforts we understand that some grave owners have not been made aware of our proposals.* There is no apology provided and no explanation as to why all grave owners (including myself) were not sent an email at the start of the consultation period. So I write directly to you and hope that you will take this email into consideration in your application review.

With kind regards

Emily Wood