

To Whom it Many Concern:

My family owns 3 burial sites on the mound at Highgate Cemetery and we object strongly to the proposed planning application for a gardener's building at the mound.

I have read the responses in support of the application through the planning link and, overall, the positive responses are not coming from grave owners. This is key. Indeed, my family was not aware of this planning application till last week after receiving an email from staff at Highgate Cemetery. There was no planning application notice attached to a tree near the entrance to the mound or, indeed, anywhere visible on that approach. I made the request last week and now there is one there but this is after responses can be made through the Camden website. This is entirely unfair as I would imagine not all grave owners of plots on the mound are aware of the proposal.

The site is completely unsuitable for a gardeners building of this length and height for the following reasons:

It is a long building and construction will take time and this area is the most active part of the cemetery for grieving relatives because there are current and recent burials happening there more than anywhere else. This will impact on grieving relatives during the construction process but also afterwards and forever because it will block out nature as the proposed building runs nearly the entire length of the mound. My family would not have buried our beloved relative there had we known this could happen. I have a plot there and it will also be where my sister and mother will be buried and, if this gardener's building is built, this will not be the peaceful, natural final resting place I hoped for if there is an actively used gardener's building there with a viewing platform.

It seems as if Highgate cemetery is considering the benefits of tourism over the loyalty and consideration owed to the families who invested in buying plots of land there. This balance is wrongly judged given the mound is the area where more recent or recently deceased people are laid to rest.

The buildings from the neighbouring estate box in the mound from 2 sides as it is and building the gardener's building on the 3rd side will box the area in completely.

I am not convinced that disabled access will be improved as the area will be actively used and therefore it may be harder to park near the mound. My elderly mother may therefore find it challenging to visit her husband.

I appreciate the cemetery has limited potential for where to place a gardener's building but the mound is completely ill-judged for all the above reasons. The site has been a life-line for my family as we could grieve quietly and in relative privacy.

I do not think this consultation process has been sufficiently transparent at all during the planning stages given we were only alerted last week and I think meetings should have been advertised and held for family members who have mound plots to hear our concerns.

If you could confirm receipt of my email and that my concerns have been logged, I would be grateful.

Yours sincerely,

Caroline David and Carmen David and Nicolette David