

Application N	Consultees Name	Recipient Address	Received	Comment	Response
2024/5407/P	Flavia Mancini	150 Mowbray Road Cambridge CB1 7TG	08/04/2025 12:19:50	OBJ	<p>Dear Planning Committee,</p> <p>I am writing on behalf of my family to express our deep concern and strong objection to the proposed Gardener's Building at Highgate Cemetery. Our family grave (53046/122) is located on the Mound, in immediate proximity to the planned development for the Gardener's Building. While we understand the need for operational improvements, the current proposal—with its two-to three-story height—is wholly inappropriate for a site of such historical and emotional significance.</p> <p>1. Visual and Emotional Impact on the Mound The proposed building would dominate the landscape, isolating the graves on the Mound from the rest of the cemetery and severely obstructing the views that are integral to the open, reflective experience this part of Highgate offers. The Mound contains some of the most recently buried individuals, including my beloved husband, and is frequently visited by grieving families. To overshadow these resting places with a large, modern structure is not only visually jarring but emotionally insensitive.</p> <p>2. Disrespect to the Peace of the Cemetery Highgate is valued for its unique atmosphere of peace and reverence. A large service building—with public toilets and staff activity—so close to active gravesites risks introducing noise, foot traffic, and other disturbances that compromise the serenity that mourners seek. It is a fundamental disrespect to the dead and to the families who continue to honor their memory through quiet visitation.</p> <p>3. Communication Failures Adding to our distress is the fact that we were not made aware of the planning application in a timely manner. The notification emails from Highgate Cemetery were received only on 13/03 and 28/03—long after the initial consultation period had closed. This delay deprived us of a fair opportunity to participate in the process and voice our legitimate concerns.</p> <p>4. Alternative and Respectful Solutions We urge the committee to reconsider the scale, location, and design of the proposed building. A smaller, more sensitively designed structure, placed in a less intrusive location, could still meet operational needs without compromising the cemetery's character or the sanctity of active grave sites. Toilet facilities, in particular, should not be situated near burial areas.</p> <p>Highgate Cemetery is not just a heritage site; it is a place of ongoing mourning, memory, and emotional connection for many families. The current proposal disrespects that function. We strongly request that the plans be revised to protect the dignity of the site and preserve its peaceful atmosphere for future generations.</p> <p>Thank you for considering our concerns. We hope to see thoughtful adjustments that balance the cemetery's needs with its sacred role as a place of remembrance.</p>

Kind regards,

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