

From: sara
Sent: 16 April 2025 18:19
To: Planning
Subject: 2024/5407 P Highgate Cemetery with correction.

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from Mrs Sara Wood [joint owner of my husband's grave no.53278

16.April 2025

Dear Planning Department

I apologise, the 3 corrections/additions in red were left out of my previous submission. Could you log this submission in stead? I am old and in grief and distress and find all this very difficult.

from Mrs Sara Wood [joint owner of my husband's grave no.53278

16.April 2025

Dear Planning Department

I strongly object to the Gardeners' Building proposed in the above Planning Application from Highgate Cemetery. I am sorry my objection is out of time but as a grave owner I was only informed of this development on 28 March 2025, well beyond the closing date. Looking at your website I see there were consultation meetings, I was not informed about any of them. This is a serious oversight on the part of Ian Dungavell and I am deeply distressed. When I chose the grave site no mention was made that a building would be constructed on the mound.

The Mound is an active part of the cemetery with new graves continually being provided. I chose it 4 years ago when my husband died for its peaceful, natural, ecologically sound approach and especially for the view over the trees and of the old cemetery. Trees are proven to be healing to humans in grief. We were assured the mound slope would be covered in spring flowers, I visit my husband's grave weekly to tend it and contemplate. We were married 64 years.

The Gardeners' Building, a hideous rectangle in aggregated concrete, will rise 3.7m above the mound, 6m. from the path level, and run the entire length of the mound, blocking the view of the trees and old cemetery, and will be noisy when in use with vehicles going into the lower storey and personnel

into the upper storey. It will convert an open, airy, sunny, spiritual space into a claustrophobic, shaded, noisy, urban area. Will the turning vehicles be bleeping, they will certainly need lights in the winter. Will they emit pollutants? They will certainly be muddy.

The view from Karl Marx monument, one of the most visited areas by people from all over the world, will be spoilt as one will be able to see the Gardeners' Building when looking at the monument, instead of a bank of wild flowers/grass. Most visitors continue down the path to turn **right** from the Mound and visit the original grave of Karl Marx. When they return down the path they will be confronted by the 6 m. concrete Gardeners' Building and vehicles driving in and out of it.

The placards explaining the project, mounted in the West side Courtyard, are misleading. The figures are out of proportion making the building seem much lower, the path retains its present width, and the photo of the moss covered old english courtyard wall is neither a retaining wall nor anything at all to do with the Gardeners' Building. When I have approached other grave owners to ask their opinion about the Gardeners' Building and indicated to them both its height, length and material they are horrified. One lady assured me the building was only going to be knee high **with a flat grass roof**.

I have written in great detail how Highgate cemetery can accommodate the functions of the Gardeners' Building elsewhere on site with better design of the other proposed buildings. I am told they wanted to place it adjacent to Swains Lane, and Camden Planning Department declined permission. How can a view from Swains Lane take precedence over a peaceful active burial mound? **Why should enhanced facilities for the staff take precedence over grieving relatives and the open, peaceful beauty of the Mound?**

I most strongly request that the planning application for the Gardener's Building be denied permission in its currently proposed location.

Sara Wood