

Application N	Consultees Name	Recipient Address	Received	Comment	Response
2024/5407/P	Helena Vastardis	36 Dresden Road London N19 3BD	17/04/2025 10:37:17	OBJ	<p>My comments are limited to the proposed erection of the Gardeners Building by / on the mound. I write as someone who visits a family grave. I only comment now as we have only just been informed of the proposals.</p> <p>The mound is the working part of the cemetery where burials are still held and where family friends come in remembrance and for contemplation. Clearly there are competing needs – and these include those who work to maintain the cemetery. However, in my view, the proposals do not strike the right balance between the need to modernise the infrastructure of the cemetery, and the need of the grave owners / those who visit the graves. It appears that low priority has been given to the visitors of graves. The Gardeners Building is described as being "in the most easterly part of the Cemetery away from the main entrance spaces". But the Gardeners Building is not tucked away from the perspective of the visitors to graves. It will change an area of previously quiet contemplation and (for them) a key element of the East Cemetery.</p> <p>The mound currently represents a good compromise between the cemetery as a place visited as an attraction in its own right; and those who visit the cemetery to remember loved ones buried there. In fact there is currently a sign that suggests the area be reserved for grave owners. My key comments are as follows:</p> <p>Cemeteries, including the East Cemetery, are designed to be quiet places of reflection. Insulated to whatever level circumstances allow, from the everyday world.</p> <p>The top level of the Gardeners Building will house a range of services not normally situated next to graves. It simply does not feel appropriate to build a shower block and toilet block a stone's throw away from graves. I would also query if the level of provision proposed for the building (for example two showers) is proportionate to the harm done. Identifying a need should not override the need of a place to maintain its current character.</p> <p>From the published designs at Design_and_Access_Statement_Volume_3_Architecture.pdf, it would appear that the graves of the mound are to be explicitly incorporated into the more public areas of the cemetery via footpaths and the Gardeners Building – not least as a point of access to a public toilet.</p> <p>As proposed, the Gardeners Building is a large structure that will dominate graves on the mound. It will block views. It will also dominate views.</p> <p>The top storey of the Gardeners Building is a short path away from the graves and is accessed from areas next to the graves. It is not proposed for storage. It will house toilets and showers. Including a public toilet.</p> <p>These facilities are designed to be used. By its nature, this building and its facilities will detract from the solemnity and quiet of the site.</p> <p>At Design_and_Access_Statement_Volume_3_Architecture.pdf it appears that the mound is now designed to be accessed by the public. In fact, the Design and Access Statement</p>

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					<p>(Introduction) depicts the building as viewpoint where visitors survey the cemetery: Design_and_Access_Statement_Volume_1_Introduction.pdf.</p> <p>In making these comments I am mindful that the mound and the East Cemetery have always had the gentle buzz of the surrounding neighbourhoods and visitors. However, these have always been balanced by the mound as a more quiet, reserved space that has an outlook onto the cemetery. I consider there should be a more balanced way to use the area around the mound, that is more respectful of the visitors to graves. For example, a more modest one storey storage building. This appears to have been the initial idea – a single storey equipment store (PPA 2 (June 2023)). In addition, the lower level of the mound seems the more sensible and sensitive point for a public toilet.</p>
