

I strongly urge you not to grant permission for Project 6 of planning application 2024/5407/P on the ground that it destroys the peace and quiet of the Mound burial ground and the current peaceful views enjoyed by visitors to Karl Marx monument and Karl Marx original burial place.

The proposed Education and Community Building and a new gardeners' building

On the East side, near the entrance, the proposed Education and Community Building is located, currently, where there are toilets and a gardeners' building. The interior design of the proposed Education and Community Building shows an empty hall with a high ceiling and a skylight.

On the West side, the plans show that the courtyard will be resurfaced. A building could be located in the middle of the courtyard: either a polygonal building with glass walls and a flat, green roof or a polygonal, glass dome, within which there could be containers with plants around the edge. Inside it would be spacious, with plenty of day light and interesting views all around: the courtyard colonnade on the one side, and the West side entrance and the chapel on the other. From outside it would be possible to see across the courtyard through the glass building, and there would be space for a wide path around the building. Located near the cafe and visitors' centre on the West side, this new building could be for the educational and community projects.

A new gardeners' building and toilets could be located on the East side near the entrance instead of the proposed Education and Community Building. This new building on the East side and the North Lodge on the West side could provide for the needs of the gardeners and volunteers. This location, near the East side entrance and Swains Lane, would be much less obtrusive than by the Mound, and the wildflower bank would be saved.

In response to the Garden Trust and The London Parks and Gardens supporting application 2024/5407/P appealing that the application should not be granted for Project 6.

The Gardeners' Building may make the running of the Cemetery more convenient but it is not in keeping for a Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation and a site listed as Grade I in Historic England's Register of Historic Parks and Gardens.

I quote in italics the relevant paragraph in the Gardens Trust acceptance of the application and my objection to it

the new buildings are so that they will not detract from the significance of the landscape. In some instances, such as the Project 6: East Side Mound Building/Gardeners Building, it may help to articulate such areas which are of less significance, receive fewer visitors and provide vital facilities to maintain the landscape.

The significance of the landscape From the Mound there is a view over the trees and tomb stones of the old cemetery, it is airy and sunny, and peaceful. Trees are known to be strongly healing to those in deep grief. Great solace comes from the dappled light, and long vista through the wood, enhanced with ever changing flora and fauna over the seasons. The wildflower bank of the Mound has the gentle sound of bees. To erect an aggregated concrete rectangular building 3.7m above the Mound, 6 m above the path below, running almost the entire east side of the Mound, utterly destroys the character of the Mound. It turns what was an open, sunny, visually comforting space into an enclosed, claustrophobic urban, shaded box. The sound of bees will be replaced by the noise of gardening vehicles entering and leaving the building at path level no doubt loudly beeping to announce their turning. There will be only a very short gap to view the trees from the Mound and this will be difficult to access as the upper path is to be narrowed to accommodate the building. When sitting beside a grave mourners will have no view at all of the woodland trees. The cluster of graves of small children and babies on the Mound will be dominated by the new building and mourners hassled by increased pedestrian crowding.

such areas which are of less significance.. The Mound is an active burial space. The pain of bereavement must be respected. All of those buried here are of huge significance to those who mourn them and a great many have significance to a wider public. Highgate Cemetery itself erected a 'no entry sign' to the Mound to respect the frequent burials and grieving mourners from casual visitors, recognising its constant use and significance as an active burial area.

receive fewer visitors The most visited tomb on the East side is that of Karl Marx, a few hundred yards from the Mound. His monument is displayed at the entrance and postcards and tourist paraphernalia relate to him. There is a continuous flow of visitors from all over the world bringing flowers to his tomb. The proposed Gardeners' Building spoils the view of Karl Marx tomb as the 6 m aggregated concrete block will be seen when looking at the monument whether from the left or right side. Currently they see the grass mound and wild flowers. Most visitors walk down the path and turn right at the Mound along a narrow path to see the original resting place of Karl Marx almost hidden in the old cemetery. When they return to the main path and the Mound they will be confronted by a 6 m concrete building, large vehicles travelling up and down the path, and the noise of these vehicles turning in and out of the building. There are 4 large doors in the Gardeners' Building to facilitate this vehicular movement..

The Gardeners' Building is not *sensitively located*. It will stand 6 m from the path, blocking out the view from below of the many flowers and shrubs on the graves in the Mound graveyard.

I strongly urge you to reject planning permission for the Gardeners' Building, Project 6, of Application 024/407/P