

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning application 2024/5407/P

I am writing to lodge a formal objection to the proposed Gardeners' Building on the Mound. We received an e-mail at the end of March informing us that there was a plan to build a Gardeners' Building on the Mound in Highgate Cemetery. There had been no attempt to contact my family prior to this e-mail and the deadline for formal objections had already expired, since we were unable to object by clicking on the Camden Planning Application link. This in itself constitutes a violation of the procedure for planning permission, in the sense that we have the right, as grave-owners, to be formally informed of the plans and to be given the opportunity to object to them. I would therefore be grateful if you would accept this letter as a formal objection to the plans for the Mound in Highgate Cemetery within the Planning application 2024/5407/P.

I would like to make the following objections to the proposed Gardeners' Building on the Mound only:

1. I have been aware for many years that Highgate Cemetery planned to build a café and a visitors centre on the old side of the Cemetery. To my knowledge no one is buried in the area that they intend to build on and this is therefore an acceptable plan, in my view.
2. My father is buried on the Mound. In addition to this I bought a grave site, in order to be buried next to my parents in future and my sister, Caroline David, bought another grave. We own three graves as a family, so that we can be buried together. We bought the graves shortly after my father died on 26 January 2022. When we bought the graves no one mentioned anything about a plan to build a Gardeners' Building. Considering this was only three years ago, there must have been some thoughts about this even at that point and nothing was ever mentioned. The graves are very expensive and I consider this to be withholding of information on the part of Highgate Cemetery, since no one informed us at the time.
3. I am stunned that we were not informed until a very recent e-mail about the proposed Gardeners' Building until it is too late to object to the plans formally. I would suggest that the fact that we as grave-owners were not informed is because Highgate Cemetery did not want us to object. It is a violation of the trust between us, the grave-owners, and Highgate Cemetery.
4. The Mound is the area in Highgate Cemetery with the highest number of recently buried loved ones within the whole Cemetery. Since my father was buried three years ago I have seen more graves be created and more people buried there. This is the most intensive area for grief and grieving within the whole cemetery. It is therefore the most inappropriate area to