

## Letter of Objection to Planning Application –2024/5407/P – 2024/5423/L Highgate Cemetery

As a grave owner on the Mound, I vehemently object to the proposal for a building on this part of Highgate Cemetery.

The rules for informing those that might be affected by a planning application state that **‘In the case of neighbour notification, owners or occupiers of land adjoining each application site will be notified.’** This has not been done.

None of the more than 30 grave owners that we know of, were notified by Highgate Cemetery, no targeted engagement with stake holders prior to the submission to Camden. Despite what Highgate Cemetery might suggest, **there was no consultation.** The first I heard about this planning application to install a multi purpose Gardeners’ Shed on this part of the Cemetery, was mid March 2025 – and that was from another grave owner. Three months after the Planning Application was submitted to Camden in early January 2025.

This is not acceptable practice.

My family is left with a strong sense that the process was deliberately opaque to reduce the volume of objections. This is neither fair nor democratic, nor moral, nor ethical.

I note that 5 of the 7 ‘material considerations’ that Camden Planning department will consider are directly related to these building plans for the Mound.

‘The design, size and height of new buildings or extensions’. Highgate Cemetery has accepted that its drawings in terms of height and other dimensions, as submitted to Camden, are not correct. This was corrected for the benefit of other grave-owners by fellow grave owner and award winning architect Amir Sanei.

‘The impact of new uses of buildings or of land.’

Highgate Cemetery is listed at Grade I on the Historic England Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. As such, changes must respect its historic landscape design, particularly its separation of service buildings from burial grounds. The proposed building, located centrally within an active area of burial and spiritual activity, is seen as fundamentally incompatible with these heritage values

‘Loss of light and the privacy of neighbours’ – neighbours in this case being the family and friends of those buried at the Mound, for whom this cemetery on the Mound is a place of peace and serenity in which to contemplate the past and its memories. Clearly the impact on mourners would be irreversible in terms of privacy

‘The impact of noise from plant equipment.’ The impact of noise if this building were to go ahead is obvious with all sorts of Plant Vehicles entering and exiting the very large shed. It is unthinkable that anyone would contemplate putting a building alongside one half of a working, live cemetery.

‘Noise from new uses’. The Mound is a sacred, peaceful cemetery to go and tend the grave of a loved one. People talk quietly not to disturb others. It is a sanctuary for quiet memories and meditation and prayer. If this new building were to go ahead, we would hear flushing toilets, people going in and out of the large multi-purpose shed, doors being unlocked, doors closed, shutters mechanically opened and shut. Plant vehicles being driven in and out.

And last, but not least, this proposed building would cut off the Mound from the rest of the East Cemetery, obscuring the timeless historic view of the rest of the East Cemetery.

I very sincerely request that Camden Planning Department reject this proposal to build on the Mound within the above Planning Application.