

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

In summary, my objections are:

1. 'The design, size and height of new buildings or extensions' – it has been admitted by Highgate Cemetery that these are not correct (pointed out and corrected for the benefit of other grave-owners by fellow grave owner and distinguished architect Amir Sanei)
2. 'The impact of new uses of buildings or of land.' Clearly there would be a horrendous impact on mourners to the Mound's graves.
3. '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.
4. 'The impact of noise from plant equipment.' The impact of noise if this building were to go ahead is obvious. Plant vehicles entering and exiting the large shed. It is unthinkable that anyone would contemplate putting a building alongside one half of a working, live cemetery.
5. 'Noise from new uses'. 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 etc.

As the niece of my uncle Colin Young, buried recently on the Mound, I strongly object to the proposal to build a Gardeners Large Shed on the side of the Mound. A Gardeners shed that proposes to house toilets and act as a vehicle depot is not at all appropriate just alongside a live cemetery that hosts mourners on a daily basis. The noise, the lack of privacy, the disrespect for those grieving, make this application by Highgate Cemetery quite unthinkable.

Highgate Cemetery is listed at Grade I on the Historic England Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. Surely any 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.

The proposed building would be overwhelming in scale and will block the only open side of the Mound. This will dramatically alter the character and experience of the space. The building's visibility from across the cemetery, and particularly from the Mound itself, will have a substantial and negative impact on the historic and contemplative atmosphere of the site.

Camden's local planning policies emphasise maintaining openness and restricting development to preserve this character. Many objections cite this policy framework and argue that the Gardeners' Building, due to its mass and function, clearly contravenes these guidelines.

It is easy to foresee a situation in which the presence of an overly large, utilitarian structure with its frequent vehicle movements, mechanical shutters, and daily operational noise transforms the Mound into a service yard rather than a sacred, reflective space. This is entirely inappropriate and unacceptable given that the primary purpose of Highgate Cemetery is to serve as a burial ground and place of remembrance.

Having studied the photographs with my Aunt and the technical drawings and figures of architect and grave owner Mr Amir Sanei, it is clear that the project's facts and figures are incorrectly presented and give a false sense of the scale of this proposed building.

The Planning Application for The Mound should be resubmitted as a separate application because it is the only proposal within the Highgate Cemetery application that concerns closely and spiritually, the stakeholders – namely the grave owners at the Mound.

I urge Camden to reject this Application on the above grounds. I very sincerely request that Camden Planning Department reject this part of the above Planning Application.

My sincere thanks

Fiona Anderson

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

To whom it may concern (at the Camden Planning Applications Office):

I've recently become aware of planning applications for the construction of an additional building and facilities within the confines of The Mound at Highgate Cemetery.

My father was buried in 2022 in the Mound, and I've now that I've had the opportunity to inspect the plans themselves, I would like to share my views.

I'm told the planning application for The Mound was given to Camden Services in January of this year. However, to date, I have received no information from the site owners about these plans.

A rather unforgivable failure in responsibility.

I wish to register my disappointment with the owners at the cemetery itself and also to register my rejection of the plans for the Mound as they currently stand.

I believe the construction of, and use of this building anywhere near grave sites would drastically alter the atmosphere of the Mound site in a negative way.

The daily use of this proposed new building nearby, including toilet facilities, doored-off maintenance equipment - would all introduce noise and disturbance - apart from being visually totally inappropriate for the site.

I do not accept that this is an acceptable solution. It would render the site unrecognisable; changing it from the safe haven it currently is.

In their current form, I condemn the plans outright.

I note that the cemetery owners have been very lax in their communications with grave owners and relatives, I further note that their responses to continuing discussions are less than accommodating to our wishes which appear not to have been a consideration at all.

Mostly, I consider the plans would change the identity of the Mound in a manner that is entirely incongruous to its function as a living cemetery.

I would ask that Camden Planning firmly reject these proposals, or anything like them, in their current form.

Sincerely,

Colin Young IV

6 Larkhall Lane

Dear Sirs,

As the ex wife of a husband buried recently on the Mound, I strongly object to the proposal to build a Gardeners Large, Multi-Use Shed on the site of the graves Mound at Highgate Cemetery.

5 of the 7 'material considerations' that Camden Planning department will consider are directly related to these actual proposals put forward in this application. Namely:

1. 'The design, size and height of new buildings or extensions' – it has been admitted by Highgate Cemetery that these are not correct (pointed out and corrected for the benefit of other grave-owners by fellow grave owner and distinguished architect Amir Sanei)
2. 'The impact of new uses of buildings or of land.' Clearly there would be a horrendous impact on mourners to the Mound's graves.
3. '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.
4. 'The impact of noise from plant equipment.' The impact of noise if this building were to go ahead is obvious. Plant vehicles entering and exiting the large shed. It is unthinkable that anyone would contemplate putting a building alongside one half of a working, live cemetery.
5. 'Noise from new uses'. 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 etc.

I very sincerely request that Camden Planning Department reject this part of the above Planning Application.

Yours Sincerely,

Kristin Ohman, previously Kristin Young.

To whom it may concern,

My father Colin Young was buried in Highgate Cemetery (on the Mound) in 2022.

I have only recently (and by accident) become aware of a proposal to erect a large building in the immediate vicinity of my father's grave.

This significant development has been proposed without due consultation with our family, and many others who are similarly affected.

I now understand that these plans were in place when we negotiated purchase of the plot, yet we were not made aware of this at that time. This failing is probably something we need to take up with the cemetery management, but I wanted to also make this known to yourselves.

As a family we chose the plot because of his and our long-standing connection to North London, having lived there for most of our lives, and our great love for the tranquility and antiquity of the historic site.

This tranquility will be forever diminished or arguably destroyed by the proposed building, which will also permanently isolate the Mound site from its surroundings, effectively cutting it off from the rest of the cemetery.

As the Mound is the only part of the cemetery currently used for new burials, the choice of this particular site seems ill-considered. The argument that other sites don't exist is not credible, as a cursory look suggests other existing buildings could more sensibly be re-tasked for the required uses.

The brief for this scheme seems to have neglected to consider the nature of the site as an active place of remembrance and mourning, and lacks due sensitivity and courtesy to the families affected.

There must be a better way..

Yours Sincerely,
Cairn Young