

From: Bertie Carvel
Sent: 20 May 2025 00:19
To: Planning
Subject: OBJECTION to planning application 2024/5407/P

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to **object in the strongest terms to the application to build a new Gardeners Store on “The Mound” at Highgate Cemetery, where my mother was buried in 2019.** I have only just become aware of this proposal, which was submitted in December last year. I understand that online comments are now closed but that I may still object by email.

I will write in more detail, but for the sake of registering my objection as soon as possible and in the sincere hope that it will be included in the decision-making, please allow me to make the following initial points:

- The Mound is the site of the most recent burials at Highgate Cemetery and as such the area most visited by active mourners — surviving family members and intimate connections of the deceased. By contrast, most of the cemetery is occupied by the graves of those long dead and is visited mainly by recreational visitors who have no personal connection to those buried there.
- As such, **The Mound is the very last place that should be considered to house a large new building with a brutalist design.**
- I chose to bury my mother here because of her deep love of the natural environment and her connection to historic Highgate. I cannot speak for other grave owners, but I strongly suspect that many, if not most, will have had similar motivations. It is deeply inappropriate to place this new building in such a way that the Mound is cut off from the rest of the cemetery.
- If the proposed new Gardeners’ Store is allowed, The Mound will lose its connection to the historic cemetery and instead feel more like an extension of the brutalist housing estate which borders it to the East.
- Moreover, it will lose its special character as a place of quiet contemplation, surrounded by greenery, instead becoming a bustling and noisy centre for staff on their breaks, visitors using the restroom facilities and grounds workers parking or maintaining heavy vehicles.
- Grave owners (ie the families of those buried there) were not made aware of the plans until several months after the planning application had been submitted. This is totally unacceptable and in my view utterly disrespectful. It is stating the obvious to say that the

feelings of those mourning recently deceased relatives buried here ought to have been consulted prior to any such application.

Thanks for taking these points into consideration. I would appreciate it if you could confirm receipt and that my points will be shown to the planning board and included in the decision-making process.

Yours faithfully,

Bertie Carvel