

Waterlow Park Dartmouth Lodge Planning Information

- 1) Statement regarding the history of the use relative to the park and council services so that we have a clearer idea as to what the existing use is:

According to the book “Waterlow Park, A Garden for the Gardenless” Pam Cooper writes that in 1866 Sydney Waterlow embarked on a large programme of works to the new estate including the building of Dartmouth Park Lodge, and around that time the creation of the old kitchen gardens. All of this food growing capacity from the glasshouses and kitchen gardens must have been necessary for the large Waterlow household as by 1871 there were 16 servants.

From 1866 a member of the estate staff would have lived in Dartmouth lodge, almost certainly a senior gardener (at times, perhaps the head gardener) together with his family. It is not possible to say for how long this arrangement continued but from circa 1990 to 1997 the lodge was used as residential accommodation by officers from Camden Councils parks services section. From 1997 – 2011 the lodge was converted into office accommodation for the parks rangers and nature conservation team. From 2011 Camden’s property services section took control of the lodge and since that time the premises have remained empty whilst the council have looked for a suitable use for the property.

- 2) A statement providing justification as to why the use is no longer required i.e. are there other caretakers offices in the park/are there other outbuildings for any storage which may be required.

The Council has not required the use of Dartmouth Lodge as office accommodation or storage facilities since 2011 when the decision was taken to close satellite offices in order to reduce expenditure. This was the first step in bringing staff together in the town hall extension as part of a council wide accommodation strategy, and was part of a wider planned move for staff to a new town hall complex within the Argent, Kings Cross development. A second key driver for this move was to facilitate closer and more effective team work by having all officers in the town hall extension. The use of Dartmouth lodge as office accommodation has not been required since 2011 and will not be in the future as staff are currently preparing to move to the new town hall in 2014.

Prior to 1997 Dartmouth Lodge was used as residential accommodation for parks staff, this use is no longer required as all staff directly related to Waterlow Park are now employed through the Grounds Maintenance Contract and have been since the service first went out to Contract in the mid 90’s.

As empty properties the lodges are a deteriorating asset that is a risk to Camden Council and the Waterlow Trust. In order to build a financially stable future for the Park it is important that all assets are managed in the most sustainable manner. It is Officers opinion that this will be through residential leases.