

Planning Development Control
Camden Town Hall
Argyle Street
London WC1H 8ND

20 February 2007

Application Ref. 2007/0548/INVALID

Dear Sirs,

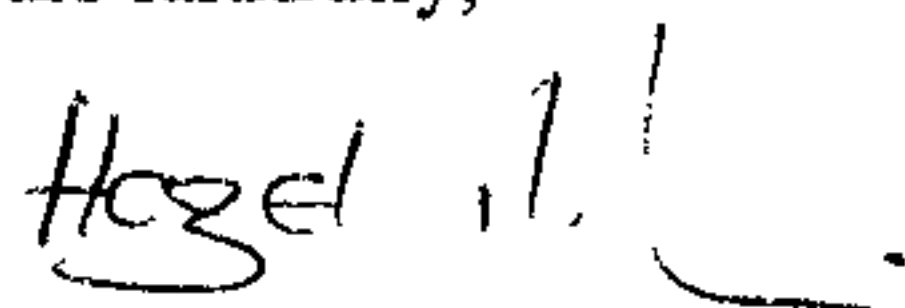
Please find enclosed 10 copies a site plan as requested in your letter of February 13th. This is to complete our application in respect of a Planning/Listed Building Consent Application for the Installation of Sound Sculptures in the Garden of Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, London NW1 7AY. The boundaries of the property to which the application refers are marked in red. The Society does not own any adjoining land.

Your letter also asked about the method of fixing the sculptures and their proposed longevity. They will be bolted to a concrete plinth so can be removed and re-sited without damage to the base or the sculptures. The intention would be that they become a permanent feature of the garden until/unless the Society decides to remove them or they become unfit for purpose.

I hope this completes information you need in order to process our planning application. If any further information is required, please contact me or our Head Caretaker, Colm Campbell.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,



Hazel Miller
Chief Officer

Planning Application for the Installation of Musical (Sound) Sculptures in the enclosed garden to the south of Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, London NW1 7AY

Appendix 2 Press Release November 2005

A win in the People's Millions, an ITV and Big Lottery Fund joint initiative, after appearing on ITV regional news, is particularly appropriate during the 75th anniversary year of Cecil Sharp House. Viewers across the London region and supporters from all over the country voted us winners of a £50,000 award after our application was among the final eight projects short-listed out of more than 100 applications from the London area. We had to make our case to viewers, and did this through snapshots of the various activities in which the Society is involved filmed against the backdrop of the garden of Cecil Sharp House – a Morris jig, a couple performing the steps of a quadrille, social dancing and singing. In all 3,671 members of the public in the region cast their vote in the competition.

The People's Millions programme has been set up to support projects that will improve the quality of life of local communities. The Society's grant will be going towards repairing and restoring the garden, installing a "sound garden" of three naturally-powered sound sculptures, and improving disabled access to Cecil Sharp House. Those who know the House will be aware that the small garden is deteriorating to the point its brick wall is crumbling and the garden itself is in need of attention. Years of busy traffic and city life have taken their toll and there remains a pressing need to improve access for the benefit not just of the local community but also for the 25,000 visitors from over the world who come to the House each year.

Alongside the renovation of the garden the project will establish a sound garden that meets EFDSS's charitable objective by providing "apparatus for the visual and mechanical reproduction of folk dances, songs and music." The design of such a garden will therefore reflect the function of Cecil Sharp House as a venue for folk arts for all ages and backgrounds in a series of permanent musical sculptures. The project commences this December and is due for completion in November 2006.

Built by sound sculptor, Henry Dagg, the three sculptures will represent the core purposes of the EFDSS in a very performance-orientated way; while having the visual aspect of sculptures. Each will serve as a playable musical instrument without necessarily relying on instrumental techniques restricted to conventional and able-bodied musicians. Some or all will be capable of a degree of self-performance using natural energy sources, and all three may be used to create an ensemble performance by groups of members.

Henry will devise the sculptures incorporating three themes to:

1. Draw upon appropriate elements of the history of Cecil Sharp House, the English Folk Dance & Song Society and collections held by the Ralph Vaughan Williams Memorial Library
2. To work with 10 people with learning disabilities from the local charity, The Camden Society, to incorporate their ideas about how natural energy interacts with objects to make sound. Participants have a range of different learning needs and the work will reflect their creative ideas of their local environment.
3. Be powered by natural energy (wind, rain, sun) or by human muscle to minimise their environmental impact.

Background to Planning Application for the Installation of Musical (Sound) Sculptures in the enclosed garden to the south of Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, London NW1 7AY

The English Folk Dance and Song Society is a charity registered in England and Wales, no 305999. It aims to provide a local and national service to anyone participating or wishing to participate in folk activities and to co-ordinate the development of a national programme of education.

As part of its desire to make its headquarters at Cecil Sharp House in Regents Park Road more accessible to local audiences, in particular disadvantaged groups, which had not previously been involved at the site, the EFDSS applied to the People's Millions programme of the Big Lottery Fund for a grant in 2005. The application was for a proposal to design and erect up to three sound sculptures in the garden of Cecil Sharp House for use in educational projects together with full wheelchair access to the garden and the sculptures. The recent Folk 4 Us day (so much enjoyed by the Mayor of Camden and around 80 local children as part of our 75th anniversary) is the sort of event when visitors to Cecil Sharp House would be able to experience in the Sound Garden.

The sculptures will be entirely powered by natural means – solar power, wind, human effort. We have been advised by the sculptor that it will be possible to dismantle them when not in use to minimise unauthorized access and any possible disturbance to neighbouring properties. It is not intended that the sculptures will be available to all, but to selected groups whose work will be supervised and structured.

The project involved working with the Camden Society, a London-based organization, which exists to enable vulnerable people to improve the quality of their lives, on both the design of the sculptures and garden maintenance work. See the report of Henry Dagg, the sound sculptor, on the design phase at Appendix 3. The EFDSS was awarded one of only five grants made to the London area as a result of a public vote after short-listed projects were featured on the ITV London early evening news programme and viewers asked to decide which projects they felt deserved support. Fuller details of the proposal are attached as Appendix 1 of this document. The press release circulated after the Society won one of the awards is Appendix 2.

The award was made in November 2005 with an initial deadline of 12 months to complete the project. Unforeseen problems with the creation of the sculptures, designed especially for the EFDSS has meant a delay in installation which resulted in the Big Lottery Fund giving a three month extension for the completion of the project to the end of February 2007. The Society was originally advised informally that as the sculptures 'are of a temporary nature' and can be removed should it become necessary or desirable to do so, no statutory permissions would be required. However, we were advised by Camden Borough Council at a later date that applications are necessary for both listed building consent and planning permission.

Scale drawings of the proposed locations of the sculptures are enclosed

We hope that Camden Borough Council will continue its support of the work of the Society and give the required permissions to allow us to complete this project as soon as possible.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Hazel Miller
Chief Officer