

[REDACTED]

From: catthy taylor <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 05 August 2014 08:41
To: Planning

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to object to the planning application

2014/4332/P

works to be carried out at Hampstead and Highgate ponds. I do not believe the works are necessary.

Yours truly,

Catherine Taylor

[REDACTED]

From: caroline conran <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 05 August 2014 08:43
To: Planning
Subject: Hampstead Ponds

Dear Sirs,

I strongly object to the proposals to dam Hampstead Ponds; it will erode the wild and natural state of the Heath, such an important resource for Londoners since it was formed over 100 years ago; if built these works would permanently blight and disfigure the Heath contrary to the Hampstead Heath Act 1871, and the principal charitable object for which the Society was formed in 1897.

best wishes
Caroline Conran

[REDACTED]

From: gabriel is [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 August 2014 09:47
To: Planning
Subject: Damming of Hampstead Ponds

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a regular user of the heath and the swimming ponds, I would like to register my complete disapproval of the proposed work on Hampstead Heath ponds.

The heath is a haven for nature and it would propostrous to disturb the habitat in the way that has been suggested with the moving of thousands of tons of material and the felling of trees. As you know, the noise and air pollution would also cause considerable disruption to the tranquil environment.

I consider the work unjustified, and a complete waste of tax payer's money. To my knowledge the ponds have not flouded or collapsed in all there 300 years of history.

Yours sincerely,

Gabriel Facchini

[REDACTED]

From: Hilary Worboys [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 August 2014 10:01
To: Planning
Subject: application 2014/4332/

Dear Sirs

I am writing to oppose the application regarding the proposed Dam construction works which will scar the Heath for years and disfigure it for the generations to come.

The justification seems to be tenuous, at least, and at worst to set a precedent regarding the threshold at which massive expenditure is required to be incurred in order to mitigate very remote risks on safety grounds, which would be wholly unsustainable if applied generally to society and public authorities.

Regards
Hilary Worboys
4 Stormont Road
Highgate
London N6 4NL

[REDACTED]

From: Maeve Haran <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 05 August 2014 10:19
To: Planning
Subject: Objection to Application Number 2014/4332/P
Importance: High

As a frequent heath user and swimmer at Kenwood Ladies Pond I would like to object to the above application on the following grounds:

The frequent use of dumper trucks and tankers in this peaceful area. I witnessed the driver of one of these turning round near the ice cream van, on his mobile phone, with children swarming around. It was clearly a serious accident waiting to happen.

The erection of a 2.5m metre dam above the Men's Pond.

Closure of these much-used amenities.

Computer modelling that predicts drastic and unrealistic eventualities.

The loss of hundreds of mature trees

Giant spillways that will affect this miraculous corner of our boroughs.

Don't do it!

Maeve Haran
3 Grange Road
N6 4AR

From: Viola Sampson RCST <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 05 August 2014 10:27
To: Planning
Subject: Planning Application number 2014/4332/P

Dear Jonathan Markwell and the Camden Planning Committee

I am writing to object to planning application 2014/4332/P.

Having read information provided by the City of London Corporation, Camden Council, as well as corresponding with Heath staff and researching more about the issues online and in news reports, I can only conclude that the City of London Corporation is proposing extreme measures to mitigate against a flooding risk that is highly unlikely. As you know, its proposals will take two years to complete, with significant areas of the Heath closed to the public and major construction works changing it forever. Throughout these two years, the peace and tranquility of this unique natural haven will be severely disrupted with thousands of heavy vehicle movements – and yet all this is apparently wholly unnecessary.

While I recognise that some works on the dams may be needed, given their age and the changing climate, the scale of the work proposed by the City's advisor/dam company is beyond what seems necessary. Their risk threshold of a 1 in 400,000 year storm lacks credibility, when even the Thames Barrier was only built to cope with a storm surge of 1 in 1,000 years (before sea level rise). This alone makes me think that reasonable interventions, to the scale of realistic risk, would be a lot smaller (even 400 times smaller for a 1:1000 year probability) to make the dams safe enough for downstream households, transport and businesses, and of course smaller interventions would have a lot less impact on the Heath, its wildlife and visitors which would be more acceptable.

What also seems ridiculous is that in a less severe storm than the dams would be built for, the local sewers would fail, and there would be flooding from other sources – making the dams irrelevant long before the kind of storm they would be built for. If there was high ground and more water sources above the ponds, then there would be more grounds for concern, but basing the proposals on the very worst kind of storm, even possible, on that precise location and for several hours, is surely too far fetched to justify anything other than the profits of a dam company.

I travel more than an hour to reach the Heath, often several times a week, and all year round; I enjoy it with friends and family on weekends and swim regularly in the ponds. I see its natural beauty and tranquility is essential to the health and happiness of so many Londoners, including myself. I am a therapist, in neighbouring Islington, and many of my clients also report the Heath is a primary support of their mental health, as well as their physical fitness and spiritual health, so Camden Council is guardian of a rare place that has a positive effect across London. I spend most of my time around the Model Boating pond, Bird Sanctuary, the Ladie's Pond and Mixed Pond, all of which will be severely affected by the building works. These places have a rare beauty that is a result of several hundred years of careful management and minor intervention, and I am greatly concerned that the wildlife and natural essence of this place will be destroyed or displaced with the kind of major construction works proposed in the City of London Corporation's application.

My professional background is in ecology and I am dismayed to see Catchpit Valley's earthworks would destroy an area that is currently one of the very few places on the Heath that is less accessible to humans, which surely makes it an important wildlife sanctuary on the Heath, for fungi, plants, mammals and birds, and so essential to the ecological health of the Heath as a whole. This kind of disruption can't be mitigated by the compensatory tree planting proposed and given the unique pressures on the Heath's ecosystem (because it is surrounded by city and has such a high human footfall) it could take many, many years to

recover, if at all. The loss of 160 trees, many of them mature, is irreversible – planting young trees cannot replace this loss of an established ecosystem.

I am also concerned that the extent of the work at the Ladies Pond means that it will be closed for 5-7.5 months, including early Spring. This is obviously a sensitive time for the breeding birds in that pond, the neighbouring Bird Sanctuary and Stock Pond, including kingfishers. Again, this is a threat to the integrity of the fragile ecosystem, when the scale of work here is unnecessary, and as the Heath is surrounded by the city, there are no other places these birds can retreat to while the work takes place.

I understand that other experts (perhaps with greater independence than an advisor who owns one of the few dam companies in the UK) have made alternative recommendations to address more realistic flood risks, with gentler interventions more suited to the environment, including enhancing the Heath's natural capacity to absorb flood water, which may even be reduced by heavy construction (as we have seen across the UK countryside).

I can see that £17million could be better spent to make the ponds safe, preserve lives, improve through-flow and enhance biodiversity than on this major dam project, although I realise the misspending of the City of London Corporation funds is beyond the remit of Camden's Planning Committee, even in this time of managing budget cuts elsewhere in the borough. The Committee has the power to protect this unique and internationally famous national treasure now in its guardianship. I urge the Committee to reject the application on the grounds that the measures it proposes are simply excessive, and so the major disruption and disfigurement of the Heath, severe threat to wildlife and loss of unique habitat are unnecessary costs to pay.

Yours sincerely,

Viola Sampson

[REDACTED]

From: Jonathan Thomson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 05 August 2014 11:17
To: Planning
Subject: stop dam project - Hampstead Heath
Importance: High

This is an outrageous violation of a unique part of London's wider park landscape – if you allow this project to occur you will have been complicit in an act of environmental vandalism.
Jonathan Thomson

[REDACTED]

From: Sarah Dewis - [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 August 2014 13:00
To: Planning
Subject: Dam works to Hampstead Ponds - 2014/4332/p

To whom it may concern:

I would like to register my strongest objections to the proposed construction work on the ponds of Hampstead Heath.

I have been a swimmer at the Ladies pond for many years and it is a truly magical place.

I very much enjoy walking on the heath, the views as you walk by the ponds are just some of its many gifts.

I do not see the point of the work proposed:

In the short term the work would disturb enjoyment of the heath and in the longer term the views, however much camouflaged, would be destroyed.

I understand that there have been floods in the past in the Fleet Road area - but these have been to do with overflowing ancient sewers as a result of intense rainfall.

At a time when cuts are being made in all areas of local government I consider the money that would be spent on this project (and has already been spent) a sickening waste.

Spend it instead on repairing the sewage system.

Best wishes,

Sarah Dewis

[REDACTED]

From: lesley morrison <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 05 August 2014 14:08
To: Planning
Subject: Hampstead Heath ponds

Dear Sir / Madam,

I wish in the strongest way to object to the plans for reconstruction of Hampstead Heath ponds.

We have now moved back to Scotland but, during the 18 years that I lived in London, the women's pond was a place of peace and renewal for me. Memories of the pond are among my fondest memories of London and I'm sure this is the case for thousands of other women.

It is unsupportable that a place of such unique beauty could be threatened because of a response supposedly required to a calculated tiny risk of flooding. There are many, many more effective ways that money could be spent protecting lives and property (and giving profitable projects to construction companies), among them, traffic systems which prioritise cyclists and pedestrians, thereby reducing carbon emissions and contributing to reduced flooding risk.

Please reconsider.

Thank you

Yours sincerely,

Lesley Morrison

[REDACTED]

From: John Etheridge <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 05 August 2014 14:16
To: Planning
Subject: Hampstead Heath Dams Project

Dear Sir /Madam,

I want to add my voice to the chorus of concern and, frankly , shock at the proposed works on the Heath .

I've lived in the area for 35 years and walked on the Heath practically every day ..The Heath is our life-line ,our place of refuge and refreshment ,as it is for the thousand of people who visit from all over London and indeed

the world.

It's very existence is owed to the determined actions of locals and Acts of Parliament which protected it from the clutches of property developers etc in the middle of the 19C ..All this is well documented..

I went to the Public Meeting at Parliament Hill School and was impressed by the passionate feeling against these proposals ...These people were not primarily rich ,spoilt incomers ..They were the people who have been in

the area for years ...They may live in houses that are now worth a lot of money ..but basically they are not some priveleged elite sulikng Nimby -like..

These people LOVE the Heath and feel that the Project proposers really don't understand the depth of feeling ...

All of which would be irrelevant if there really was a likely risk to life ...In this case it has been calculated ,apparently, at 1 in 400,000 (likelihood of storm surge overtopping the dams) ...

As has been pointed out ,we have just had the wettest winter on record and none of the ponds got near a dangerous levelin fact the only "overtopping " that I,ve seen was I believe in May 2010 when the boating pond

flooded TO THE Side ..ie no dam was overtopped (apologies if I am wrong about the exact date).

It's obviously necessary to keep an eye on these structures ..but what is being proposed will cause a) years of MAJOR disruption (74 lorries a day has been mentioned) .b).An environment that won't look

"natural" (ie regrowth of grasses ,shrubs .. not to mention trees that will take 50 years), for at least 10 years ..c).Giant new structures that will completely change the landscape of the Heath

These Dams have done a fine job for 300 years... I urge you to reject the proposals as they stand and ask the City to think again

Yours

John Etheridge