

44 South Hill Park

London NW3 2SJ

5 August 2014

Dear Mr Markwell

Planning reference 2014/4332/P

Hampstead and Highgate chains of ponds Hampstead Heath

I am writing to object to the planning application proposed by the City of London for work on the dams on Hampstead Heath, and ask that the application be refused.

This objection is on a personal basis, as a resident of nearly 30 years, but I am also a member of the Heath and Hampstead Society Heath Sub-committee.

The works proposed would have an adverse effect on the houses in South Hill Park which adjoin ponds No 1 and No 2. The spillways presented in the application will be unsightly and, combined with raising the height of the dams, will spoil the relatively "rural" effect of the area.

There will be a loss of trees, including some of considerable age (eg some of the planes between Ponds 1 and 2).

These are changes which will have an immediate effect in my locality, but the proposals for work further up the Hampstead chain, and on the Highgate chain, would have the same results but on a larger scale.

I believe that the City of London has not adopted a sensible balance between the various engineering assumptions underpinning its plans and the requirements of the original 1871 Hampstead Heath Act, which dictates the preservation of the Heath's "wild and natural state".

The works proposed do not pay sufficient attention to the 1871 Act, would disfigure the Heath and would be detrimental to the areas surrounding the Heath, many of them Conservation Areas.

While the proposed works address overtopping of dams and dam collapse, any application should demonstrate fully how flood water could better be drawn away by the sewerage system; the present plans focus on the integrity of the dams rather than what happens to any water which flows down the spillways in an extreme storm after it leaves the Heath.

In addition there should be further assessment of early warning systems to alert those downstream who would be affected by a severe flood on the Heath. This would mitigate the extent of work required on the dams themselves.

Yours sincerely

John Beyer

