

[REDACTED]

From: jeanette foley [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 August 2014 15:02
To: Planning
Subject: Objections to construction works and dams on Hampstead Heath - Application Number 2014/4332/P

To whom it may concern

I am emailing my objections to the proposed construction works and dams on Hampstead Heath (application number 2014/4332/P)

Grounds for objection

- Closed ponds for over 2 years which is unnecessary
- Dumper trucks and tankers on the heath spoiling a beautiful safe, peaceful environment
- Major impact of wildlife and insects - in a time where the impact of wildflowers and bees etc is of massive concern
- Design based on something that may only occur once in every 400,000 years - unnecessary, completely irrational response to a minimal concern that can be prevented by utilising more natural and less dramatic measures such as improving existing dams and early warning signs

I would hope the council consider these plans and reject the proposed construction and instead the views of the independent experts considered. As a tax payer I believe that not only are the plans unnecessary, poorly thought through and irrational, they will be costly and the minimal proposals made by the independent experts would fulfil the requirements at a much more cost effective way

Best Wishes

Jeanette

From: Harding, Idris [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 August 2014 16:17
To: Planning
Subject: Application 2014/4332/P

Dear Sir or Madam

I am a regular swimmer at both the men's and mixed bathing ponds on Hampstead Heath. I object to the proposed construction of dams and spillways due to the loss of amenity both during and after construction. Specifically:

1. Construction of a 5.6m dam across Catchpit Valley would spoil the environs of the mixed pond in a way likely to compromise its value as a place of recreation
2. The proposed dam above and wall below the men's pond would likewise impact on views into and from the pond, which are both historic and form a vital aspect of what makes swimming in this pond unique.
3. Proposed felling of more than 160 trees would likewise alter irrevocably the unique managed natural environment on this part of the Heath, which is of international importance
4. Presence of heavy traffic including tankers and dumper trucks on the Heath during construction will essentially render the area without amenity for that time
5. Likewise, closure of the ponds during construction will remove an important public amenity

I am also concerned that the flawed reasoning used to justify this large scale proposal should not go unchallenged. Specifically:

6. Computer modelling used to predict the outcome of flooding assumed the collapse of all existing dams with no warning and no emergency service response
7. The scale of floods used to justify the extent of the proposed work is a very rare (approx. one in 400,000 year) event.
8. The risk threshold used in the model is too extreme, for example it assumes that in the event of this very rare flood, the London sewer system would fail, which is independently predicted to occur only once in 70 years.
9. Application of similar models and risk thresholds to other areas would see plans advanced to ruin many of the most beautiful areas of the country, including - presumably - much of Lake District, Peak District and Scottish Highlands. This is simply not a realistic way to proceed.

Doubtless the applicant will argue that these works are needed to discharge the City of London's legal responsibilities to protect local communities from flooding, however, in considering this, you must also appreciate that:

10. The modelling used is disputed (see above)
11. Other options for improving flood resilience are available but have been ignored by the applicant

I hope that you will see this scheme for what it is: highly over-the-top and massively destructive, both in the short term of its construction, and for the longer term amenity of the area.

Yours Sincerely

Dr Idris Harding BSc MRCP
Cardiology Registrar

Hatter Cardiovascular Institute
University College London
67 Chenies Mews
London W1CE 6HX

Dear Jonathan Markwell,

As the Chair of the Kenwood Ladies Pond Association, I wish to object to the planning application 2014/4332/P in the name of the City of London.

Given that we have over time enjoyed the Heath which, under the provisions of the 1871 Hampstead Heath Act have ensured it would remain in its natural state and aspect, we now realise that with the works that the City wish to undertake, the nature and aspect of certain parts of the Heath, in particular the Boating Pond and the work on the Catchpit dam, will be altered irrevocably.

The City intends to build new dams and raise the height of old ones. This will also involve the removal of some fine trees as almost all the ponds will be subjected to the construction of new spillways which will instantly create a marker that each of these ponds are deemed reservoirs. Any softening of the earth dams, which have held the ponds over the last 200 years, will be destroyed. What today appears to be part of a naturally evolving landscape will now stand as constructed dams.

It is obvious that the scale of the works involved, taking over two years, will involve heavy construction traffic and will cause great disruption to areas around both chain of ponds, as well as restricting access to those areas. In particular we as swimmers are concerned that the Kenwood Ladies Pond will be closed for at least seven months and it appears that despite the information in the documents you have received there will be some attempt to ensure there will be women only swimming throughout the closure. You will understand that any closure is of great concern to women who swim in the Ladies Pond and unless there are alternative ponds to swim in such a restriction will have a major impact on the lives of many who swim throughout the year.

Our major objection to the whole project, however, is that there is nothing that has been stated or written which convinces those of us who have been party to the consultations and discussions with the City, that the works will in fact do what the City is claiming. There is still little conviction that the guarantee for the safety of those living below the Heath, the argument for the works, is worth the paper it is written on. Whilst accepting, given global warming, that there will be an increasing tendency for heavier and more intense rainstorms, it is unclear that the plans to build the dams will ensure the safety of those who live at the end of the drainage channels. We know that water draining off the Heath is not only channeled into the two chains. There will also be runoff into land drains and onto the roads at the base of the Heath itself. There appears to be no joint proposals with either Camden or the Thames Water who would have equal responsibilities to ensure that water, which is coming off the Heath, would be safely drained away.

We know that the City has ignored the results of its own consultation procedure, of which many of us were critical at the time. However even with the limited nature of the consultation the majority of those who responded were opposed to the proposals on offer.

Jane Shallice

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 August 2014 17:00
To: Planning
Subject: Hampstead Heath Application 2014/4332/P

Dear Planning Officer

I would like to object to the work proposed for the ponds on the Heath on the following grounds:

- they are unnecessary; the risk of a wall breach is so remote
- the corporation is the custodian of the Heath and should not be party to an action that will cause so much damage
- the Heath is a site of natural beauty and it should be the responsibility of the planners to preserve such a site and not to sanction permanent damage to it
- the work proposed is excessive and there are various options they could utilise to reduce the damage to the Heath
- there are other ways of protecting residents downstream and making sure that the risk to them is negligible.

I write as somebody who uses the Heath and the ponds every day. The people behind this rarely use it.

Yours faithfully

John Lanham

32 Fordington Rd, N6 4TJ

[REDACTED]

From: Judy Loren <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 02 August 2014 17:31
To: Planning
Subject: Hampstead Heath Dams and Ponds Project Ref 2014/4332/P

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to object to the proposed dam works on Hampstead Heath in the area of the bathing ponds and boating pond.

The chain of ponds are a unique amenity for London used by thousands of Londoners and visitors from abroad throughout the year. I have been visiting the ponds since I first moved to North London in 1972. I brought my children to enjoy them on many occasions. I use the Ladies' bathing pond and think one of the reasons why my daughter is a 'wild' swimmer is because of her love for the Ladies' pond developed from an early age. She still regularly travels from Buckinghamshire for the pleasure of using the pond and I know can't wait to introduce her daughter to its waters.

And I regularly advise overseas students at Excel English (the language school I run in Muswell Hill) to visit the ponds, use the bathing pools and to enjoy the atmosphere of the Heath.

The ponds were developed from existing pools by far sighted people who realised the need for people to feel close to nature and to have the opportunity to bathe for their health and emotional well being. They also make full use of the springs which abound on the Heath and help to regulate the water flowing down into the lower areas of London in a natural way. For over 300 years, the ponds have remained intact and have not caused flooding, even during last winter, the wettest on record. The area around the ponds has evolved gradually into a wildlife haven, with mature trees and a feeling of wildness that I've never experienced in any other capital city. Yes, the scenery is partially manmade, but change has happened gradually and largely organically.

The proposed development of the ponds area by the Corporation of the City of London is, however, both unnecessary and totally unsympathetic to this wonderful area.

The proposed building works are seeking to prevent a 1 in 400,000 year possibility of catastrophic flooding by erecting large, unsightly dams and building slipways. The recent flooding in the UK was certainly partially exacerbated by water not being able to drain away naturally through absorption into the ground because of manmade hard impenetrable surfaces. Why create these surfaces here on the Heath?

The works will involve creating large 1 metre dams around significant stretches of the men's bathing pond, the mixed pond and the Highgate No 1 pond and virtually destroying the Catchpit Valley area. These dams will dramatically change the views of the ponds and will also destroy their atmosphere. And enlarging the model boating pond will turn it into a large reservoir rather than the amenity for children, walkers, runners, sunbathers, pick-nickers and dog walkers that it currently is.

And how long would it take the Heath to recover from this massive intervention? The plans involve felling at least 160 mature trees, clearing undergrowth and of course displacing wildlife. The use of heavy plant and machinery will lead to the soil being compacted which will of course mean it is less able to absorb water, the whole purpose of the proposed exercise. The scars created will take many years to disappear.

If the works go ahead, the Ladies' Pond will be closed for well over half a year at the same time as the mixed pond is not available so there will be nowhere on the Heath for women to swim. This despite earlier assurances that there would always be a place on the Heath for women to swim. I would also question the current design for the new changing facilities at the Ladies' Pond. While better facilities are definitely needed, this design only allows a narrow access to the deck area which swimmers use to get in and out of the pond. This area is already crowded at busy

times with queues to get into the water, but restricting the access will only make matters worse and could lead to major problems if swimmers ever needed to leave that area quickly in an emergency.

The proposed works are due to cost £17 million, despite there being no clear, proven need for them to be carried out. Surely this money could be better used elsewhere and in conjunction with Camden Council and Thames Water who have responsibility for the area and for overall water management, including above and below the ponds?

In conclusion, I urge the Camden Planning Committee to listen carefully to all the arguments put forward against this proposed development, including those made by experts such as Stephen Myers, and to reject the application made by the Corporation of London.

Thank you.

Judy Loren
Principal
Excel English
The Hall, 8 Muswell Hill, London, N10 3TD

[REDACTED]

From: Pam Zinkin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 02 August 2014 19:32
To: Planning
Subject: Planning application 2014/4332/P

Camden Council has the power to stop this proposal to build dams across the ponds on Hampstead Heath. As a regular pond user and heath walker i oppose this planning application for the following reasons :

1. Alternatives have not been adequately examined.
2. Conflict of interest needs more detailed research
3. Disruption to the users of the Ponds a d the Heath , including the inconvenience caused by construction and destruction lorries had not been given due consideration.

Pam Zinkin
45 Anson Road
London n70AR

[REDACTED]

From: Abigail Morris - [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 August 2014 19:43
To: Planning
Subject: ponds

Hi
Please don't dam the ponds on the Heath. It's very expensive and unnecessary. It will devastate the natural beauty, create havoc and will really upset lots and lots of people. Please leave alone. The work will be so disruptive and the plans are based on such a small probability that it's not worth it. The prediction is once in 4000000 years!
Use the money for something else and preserve the best thing in London Abigail Morris
41 Freegrove road
n7 9rg

[REDACTED]

From: Verity Wilkinson [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 August 2014 20:22
To: Planning
Subject: Objection to Planning Application for Hampstead Heath Dams and Ponds Project
Ref 2014/4332/P

I call on Camden Council to reject the planning application from the City of London which seeks permission to build and enlarge dams on Hampstead Heath.

The City of London's proposed dam works on Hampstead Heath will permanently disfigure the Heath, and will not eliminate the risk of downstream flooding or loss of life which the City of London claims these proposals will address. The proposed works specify massive dams, spillways, concrete walls and embankments. They would involve the felling of at least 160 trees; Inevitable and irreversible damage to the Heath and its wildlife; and would ruin the amenities available for swimming in the natural beauty of the Heath's bathing ponds, particularly the Ladies pond.

The City's rationale for these works involves a dubious interpretation of the law. It refers to a computer model of a 1 in 400,000 year "probable maximum flood" and works that would "virtually eliminate" the risk of dam collapse in the event of this flood. The works would contravene the Hampstead Heath Act of 1871 which requires that Hampstead Heath be preserved in its "natural aspect and state".

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Verity Wilkinson

24 Carrol Close; NW5 1TF

[REDACTED]

From: Beatrice Hunter <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 02 August 2014 20:40
To: Planning
Subject: Hampstead Bathing Ponds

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to lodge my objection to the plans to create dams that would destroy parts of Hampstead Heath and change the bathing ponds. I beg you to consider softer measures, such as improving the Heath's natural capacity to absorb water, in order to preserve a beautiful, tranquil and much loved corner of London. A place for people to gather together and quietly enjoy being in a peaceful corner of the city is a vital element of a community. It matters to a lot of people.

Please do not interrupt our community.

Best,
Beatrice Hunter

Sent from my iPad

2014/4332/P	Hampstead and Highgate chains of ponds Hampstead Heath London	Proposed engineering works to the Hampstead and Highgate chains of ponds comprising dam raising at Model Boating Pond (2.5m) and Mixed Bathing Pond (1m), new walls along dam crest to increase the height of the dams at Men's Bathing Pond (1m) and Highgate No.1 Pond (1.25m), a 0.19m kerb along part of the crest at Hampstead No.2 Pond, a new flood storage dam (5.6m) in the catchpit area, grass-lined spillways at most ponds, dam crest restoration, pond enlargement at Model Boating Pond, a replacement changing room building at Ladies Bathing Pond and associated landscaping, habitat creation and desilting. This application is accompanied by an Environmental Statement. (COPIES OF THE APPLICATION ARE AVAILABLE TO VIEW AT HIGHGATE LIBRARY AND QUEENS CRESCENT LIBRARY)	Jonathan Markwell
<p>Object</p> <p>Hampstead Heath is a major amenity for the residents of north London. The scale of the works is huge requiring nearly 2 years to complete and during which time there will be constant noise and vehicle movement around the heath. 160 trees are to be removed. The Ladies Bathing Pond will be out of action for 5½ months and some concurrent with the Mixed Bathing Pond. The Men's Bathing Pond is to be out of action during early summer. The works will permanently alter the character of the ponds with high banks rising above the water in many instances. The Heath will be disfigured by the addition of engineered landscaping.</p> <p>The justification put forward for this work is to ensure compliance with various acts of parliament, however these acts are open to interpretation as is the scale of any rainfall. The City of London current advisers (Atkins) have taken a view of the Probable Maximum Flood which is lower than the City's previous advisers (Haycock). Future advisers may go lower still.</p> <p>The Heath & Hampstead Society is challenging the proposal by seeking a judicial review of the requirements for the various acts, no work should be commenced until the results of this review are known</p> <p>The HLE CAAC is not convinced of the need for the works and objects to the application.</p>			

[REDACTED]

From: Mary Brown <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 02 August 2014 21:47
To: Planning
Subject: Objection to planning application Number 2014/4332/P

30C Croftdown Road
London
NW5 1EN

re: Objection to planning application Number 2014/4332/P

Dear Sir or Madam

We are writing to lodge our objection to the above planning application. We both live and work locally and walk almost every day across the Heath and swim regularly in the Ladies' and Men's Ponds. We are horrified at the possibility that the beautiful ponds and their surroundings could be irreparably spoilt by expensive dams which are extremely unlikely to be needed. We understand there are alternative, far less drastic measures which would protect homes and lives just as well, if not better in the unlikely event of extreme flooding.

We believe the ponds are an extraordinarily special amenity to have in the centre of a great city such as London. Please do not allow them to be spoilt. Please do not allow this application to go ahead.

Yours faithfully,

Mary Brown and Eduardo Flores
30C Croftdown Road
London
NW5 1EN