Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee

Heath Winds

Merton Lane

London

N6 6NA

16th May 2016

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing in response to the objection concerning the viewpoint interpretation platform that English Heritage proposes to install at Kenwood. We appreciate your interest and engagement with this issue and an opportunity to better explain the rationale for the final design.

We understand that the previous view point arrangement incorporated a panel supported by a metal frame panel inside a viewing gazebo. We have considered a similar option (please refer to the drawing enclosed with this letter) but chose a Portland stone plinth for a variety of reasons. Firstly, in order to provide an engaging and multi-layered interpretation the new panel needs to be very long (over 3m). Therefore, unless we add a support in the middle, the structure would appear unbalanced and awkward. In our view, an additional metal support would be unattractive and visually detracting.

Secondly, while metal frameworks may look satisfactory in urban context, high quality real stone, with its organic texture and sandy colouring, should in time blend better into the natural setting of the Heath. In addition, we have taken into account the durability of Portland stone. Finally, it is our opinion that a stone plinth complements the existing stone pavement and the whole will form a visually coherent and attractive public amenity. Please note that we will be carrying out repairs to the said pavement.

In the view of the above I hope that you will appreciate that the installation will be of high quality and deliver wide public benefits.

I have enclosed an additional CAD drawing (Ref No: KV\_GA\_01) which better illustrates the proposed installation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, should you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Agnieszka Sadraei

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