



The Heath & Hampstead Society

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The Society examines all Planning Applications relating to Hampstead, and assesses them for their impact on conservation and on the local environment.

To London Borough of Camden, Development Control Team

Planning Ref: 2016/2783/P

Address: Royal Free Hospital; Immunology Bldg NW3

Description: Conditions: landscaping

Case Officer: Charles Thuaire

Date 22 June 2016

Much of these detailed proposals for landscaping the site are roughly in accordance with the outline designs submitted for Planning permission.

However, a key feature of these was the Heath Strange Garden, intended to replace the existing public gardens over the carpark structure, to be demolished. The new garden is to be sited between the existing hospital block and the new Immunology building, and is more enclosed; more like a courtyard. But it must still retain full public access; this is essential to its existence.

We can find no public access point to the garden on the drawings presented; it appears to be accessed only from within the new building. This is unacceptable; the purpose of the garden is to provide a green peaceful respite for the public: visitors to hospital patients; those needing a quiet area to contemplate bad news; others requiring an open-air space to counter the overwhelming presence of the hospital building.

Full open access to the garden is fundamental; without this its purpose is negated.

As it stands, therefore, we must call for refusal, unless drastic modifications are made.