

REDINGTON FROGNAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

9th October 2016

Camden Planning Office

Dear Ms Roe

WEST HEATH LAWN TENNIS CLUB APPLICATION 2016/3968/P

The Redington Frogna! Neighbourhood Forum wish to object to the application made by West Heath Lawn Tennis Club to install night lighting. The lighting proposal fails to address the impact of artificial light on local wildlife.

The Club is located in Croft Way, which is a quiet historic pathway. The site adjoins the grounds and SINC of the former Kings College site in Kidderpore Avenue and backs onto the Thames Water Reservoir. There are many mature trees surrounding the site and in Croft Way which makes it an attractive habitat for wildlife, this is illustrated in **Appendix 1**.

Surveys carried out by Barratt (Kidderpore Avenue - The Ecology Consultancy 2012), Mount Anvil (former Kings College site - The Ecology Consultancy 2014) and Redington Frogna! Neighbourhood Forum (The Ecology Network August 2016) have demonstrated the presence of both bat roosts, bat foraging sites and commuter routes in the area.

In particular, evidence of bat roosts have been found in Kidderpore Avenue and the garden of the St Luke's Vicarage is used as a bat foraging area, both these sites were monitored in August 2016. The bats identified in the area include serotine, Leisler's bat, soprano and common pipistrelle, there is some evidence of the presence of larger bats.

The artificial night lighting being proposed will have a detrimental impact on bat behaviour and bat feeding habits. The lighting will be switched on as bats are emerging from their roosts for feeding. It is not clear from the information provided what effect the proposed lighting will have on the sort of insects bats eat and whether the insects will be attracted to the light.

The height of the proposed columns should also be assessed for impact on bat commuting routes.

It is noted that the predicted light spillage calculations are calculated at the **ground level only** and do not take into account the spillage into surrounding areas including trees and homes. There has been no assessment of the negative impact on other wildlife such as owls and nesting birds

As can be seen from **Appendix 1**, the Windsor Court tennis courts are located on the other side of the reservoir, should planning be granted for night lights at West Heath Lawn Tennis Club it will set a precedent for Windsor Court to make a similar application.

Although we are great supporters of the Tennis Club as a local community amenity, regrettably we would request that you refuse this application.

Yours sincerely

Penny Davis
Vice Chair
REDINGTON FROGNAL
NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

APPENDIX 1 - SHOWING THE GREEN AREA AND TREES SURROUNDING WEST HEATH LAWN TENNIS CLUB WHICH PROVIDES AN IMPORTANT SPACE FOR LOCAL WILDLIFE.

