



Please reply to: 6 Morland Close. NW11 7JG  
Tel: (020) 8458 3039 email: tony@ghilchik.co.uk

Planning Department  
London Borough of Camden  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 5 Pancras Square  
London N1C 4AG

by email to: [planning@camden.gov.uk](mailto:planning@camden.gov.uk)

14 February, 2022

Dear Sirs

**Murphy's Yard development Application number 2021/3225/P**

I am writing on behalf of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association to object to this application on the grounds of the adverse impact it will have on Hampstead Heath.

Hampstead Garden Suburb lies at the Northern End of Hampstead Heath. It grew out of the desire of the founders, notably Dame Henrietta Barnett, to protect the open farmland north of the Heath from development on the back of the extension of what is now the Northern Line in the first decade of the twentieth century. The Heath Extension was saved for the public and Hampstead Garden Suburb became an internationally renowned example of town planning, with a particular focus on the relationship between the buildings and green space. The Residents Association is one of the largest of its kind and represents a significant proportion of the local inhabitants.


Hampstead Heath is a precious "green lung" for London. Its ecology is fragile, given the combination of climate change, and other natural threats such as tree disease, and high recreational use. The proposed scale of the development comprising six tower blocks of between 11 to 19 storeys amounting to 825 residential homes will place a greater burden on the landscape and amenities of the Heath than can reasonably be accommodated. The type of damage that is likely to occur is illustrated by the serious wear on paths and the adjoining landscape, as well as increased litter and anti-social behaviour, that occurred during the periods of lockdown.

The development itself contains no gardens or significant green open space. It is asserted by the developers that they will construct a green corridor from Kentish Town station to the entrance to the Heath at the Lido, but this consists not of a genuine green corridor but what are essentially hard surfaces with some beds and isolated trees, all of which will be overshadowed by buildings.

Most significantly the height of the proposed tower blocks so near the Heath contravene the planning requirements, not only of various local Neighbourhood Plans, but of the Camden Local Plan (Policy A2) and the Mayor's London Plan 2021 (Policies G3 and G6) with its significant adverse impact on view from Parliament Hill and the southern end of the Heath.

Although our residents live to the north of the proposed development many walk over to Parliament Hill and the Lido, as do the many visitors from all over London, to enjoy the openness of the Heath and the viewpoints such as Parliament Hill.

For these reasons we oppose the development proposals in their current form.

  
A C Ghilchik  
Chairman, Trees and Open Spaces Committee  
Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association