

Dear GARA members and supporters,

**Tue 23 June: re-scheduled date for appeal hearing for 28-unit 'frontage' scheme**

On Tue 23 June, a Planning Inspector will hold a (rescheduled) public Hearing to decide whether to allow Linden Wates' proposal to build 28 flats across the street frontage of the reservoir site. As most of you will be aware, Camden rejected this in February 2014 on grounds of poor detailed design but acknowledged that a previous Inspector had accepted the principle of a street frontage development of this scale.

Given the previous rulings, GARA did not and does not object to this scheme in which 93% of the protected Open Space would be gifted to the London Wildlife Trust to be managed as a nature reserve in perpetuity. Instead, we are focussed on ensuring that measures are put in place to protect the site and the local environment during and after construction.

You can attend the Hearing at 10.00am on Tue 23 June 2015 at the International Lutheran Student Centre, 30 Thanet Street, London WC1H 9QH. Any contribution from GARA or members of the public is at the Inspector's discretion. If you wrote to the Inspector (in May 2014!), your comments will be taken into account. We expect the Inspector to give a decision in around 4-5 weeks after the Hearing.

**Neighbourhood Plan – referendum Thu 9 July**

If you're on the Electoral Register, you should by now have by now received your Polling Card for the 9 July referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan for West Hampstead and Fortune Green, and you may be wondering what it's all about.

A West Hampstead and Fortune Green Neighbourhood Development Forum (NDF) was set up in January 2012 taking advantage of new government legislation. A committee of local residents led by James Earl, Chair of Fordwych Residents' Association, has spent the past three and a half years drawing up a Neighbourhood Plan for our area, with a great deal of local involvement ranging from public meetings and online surveys to stalls at the Jester Festival.

The result of all this work, the Neighbourhood Plan, is a formal planning document that Camden Council will be legally obliged to take into account when making decisions on new developments in our area.

The Neighbourhood Plan has been through various stages - and is now at the final point: a local referendum. As you'll have seen from your polling card, the referendum will take place on Thursday 9th July.

GARA and other local groups are urging people to vote YES to approve the Neighbourhood Plan to:

- Promote good design and protect the distinct character of the area
- Improve public transport facilities
- Support local businesses and jobs
- Provide the services our community needs
- Protect green and open space
- Get funding for local projects from developer contributions

If you'd like to know more, you can see a copy of the Neighbourhood Plan at

[www.ndpwesthampstead.org.uk/NDPfinalMay2015.pdf](http://www.ndpwesthampstead.org.uk/NDPfinalMay2015.pdf) and you can find out more about the work of the NDF at [www.ndpwesthampstead.org.uk](http://www.ndpwesthampstead.org.uk). The Vision and Objectives section on page 12 give a good one page account of what the Plan is seeking to achieve, and if you don't have time to read the entire Plan, you can just read the Policies (in the blue boxes) which are the heart of the Plan.

**2015 subscriptions**

As always, we rely on your support and interest to make our voice effective. If you would like to continue to receive our email newsletters and be involved in the future of the reservoir site, please pay your 2015 subscriptions. Thank you to those of you who have done so recently.

Paying your subs is easy ... just £10 per household or £5 for an individual, as follows:

- Cash or cheque payable to GARA, delivered to the GARA Treasurer, 20 Gondar Gardens NW6 1HG
- Bank transfer to sort code 20-74-63, a/c 80451223, with your name / address in the payment reference; and please e-mail [infogara@gmail.com](mailto:infogara@gmail.com) to say you have done so.