

POSTPONED by Camden ... Reservoir update – 28-unit ‘frontage’ scheme appeal hearing ~~Wed 13 May~~

On ~~Wed 13 May~~, a Planning Inspector will hold a public Hearing to decide whether to allow Linden Wates’ proposal to build 28 flats across the street frontage of the reservoir site. 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 Wed 13 May 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.

Reservoir update – potential for a 79-home ‘front and centre’ scheme

Linden Wates have also prepared a plan for 79 homes for the ‘front and centre’ of the reservoir site. This would destroy most of the green space and would be contrary to many Camden policies relating to Open Space and biodiversity, and with a significant detrimental impact on local facilities including parking, traffic, schools and medical services.

Linden Wates have held public meetings and exhibitions and are ready to submit a planning application. We expect them to submit this if the 28-unit appeal fails; and possibly even if it succeeds (but we hope not!). In our attempt to persuade them that this would be a disaster for them and for us, not to mention the slow worms and the green space, we have already collected over 1,800 signatures on our petition.

So, please **sign our petition** urging Camden to save the reservoir site from this excessive, greedy and unnecessary plan. You can sign on paper (come and find a GARA member) or online via www.gara-westhampstead.co.uk or at <https://www.change.org/p/camden-council-save-the-gondar-gardens-reservoir-site-from-development-which-would-destroy-this-protected-open-space-and-site-of-nature-conservation-importance>. Please inform your friends and get them to sign too – send them a link to the petition by e-mail, facebook or twitter – let’s #saveGondarGardensReservoir.

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 to say you have done so.

Big Lunch – Sunday 7 June

We’re planning a ‘Big Lunch’ (www.thebiglunch.com) in Gondar Gardens on Sunday 7 June. We’ll provide the venue and some basics; you provide the good company and some food to share.

Other news and diary dates

- Friends of Fortune Green will hold their next film on the Green on Sat 13 June – go to <http://www.fortunegreen.org.uk/-film---june-2015.html> to vote for your preferred film from the Magna Carter-related short-list
- Contact stcuthbertsconcerts@yahoo.co.uk for information about a series of piano recitals (next one on Saturday 13 June at 7pm – so make your choice between concert and film – it’s all happening in NW6)
- There will be a referendum on Thursday 9 July 2015 to adopt the Neighbourhood Development Plan - something developed locally and well worth your “yes” vote. More details at www.ndpwesthampstead.org.uk.
- Finally, we have received a message from our Safer Neighbourhood police team warning of someone knocking on doors in Westbere, Fordwych, Rondu and Skardu roads (so far), and asking for money as they had locked themselves out of their home. The police say “if you are not expecting someone, do not answer the door and do not give money away at the doorstep regardless of the reason. Call police on 101 non emergency; 999 in an emergency”.