

# Gondar Gardens reservoir is under threat

## Scheme 1: 16 houses within the volume of the covered reservoir

Linden Wates is appealing against Camden's refusal of this scheme. The appeal will be heard on **22/23/24<sup>th</sup> May** at Camden Town Hall in Judd Street.

This scheme would destroy all of the reservoir space, replacing it with luxury houses in the 'pit' accessed via a car lift. GARA has employed transport, planning and ecology consultants to help us prepare the strongest possible objection to the scheme and support Camden in upholding their refusal.

We have secured the right to stand at the appeal. We will explain why the space is so special and why the current protection of the site should remain. We need **you** to come to the appeal hearing and make yourselves heard. We also need your contributions to pay for our barrister and ecologist.

## Scheme 2: filling-in the street frontage with 28 flats and houses

Camden councillors will decide on this planning application on **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00pm** at Camden Town Hall in Judd Street. The planning officer is recommending acceptance, so we really need you to come to the Town Hall and make a noise.

GARA, jointly with Sarre Road residents, will request to speak at the meeting. Additionally you can e-mail [dc@camden.gov.uk](mailto:dc@camden.gov.uk) by 9am on 9-May and the clerk will ensure your comments (max 2 pages) go to planning committee members before the hearing.

The councillors on the planning committee are:

Milena Nuti	Sally Gimson	Valerie Leach	Matthew Sanders
Roger Freeman	Sarah Hayward	Andrew Marshall	Jonathan Simpson
Meric Apak	Jenny Headlam-Wells	Flick Rea	Laura Trott
Paul Braithwaite	Heather Johnson	Gillian Risso-Gill	Sue Vincent

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The proposed scheme includes 28 flats and houses over five floors, 9 of them affordable housing. It would block views across the reservoir and towards Hampstead from the street or houses opposite; it would encroach onto the protected Open Space and Site of Nature Conservation Importance; and it would involve replacing the entire reservoir structure with a landscaped bowl, with the undeveloped area being gifted to London Wildlife Trust. We have proposed conditions on the scheme if it gets approved, and asked for involvement in the management of the site if gifted to LWT. We are very worried that the construction work would kill off the slow-worms, despite efforts to "translocate" them; and we simply do not accept the developer's claims about traffic parking – we know these would be badly affected.

## Both schemes together?

There is a real risk that they could get consent for second application and win the appeal too, and then apply for a combined scheme, losing views and over 40% of the site for ever. Don't let this happen: write to the councillors; come to the hearings; and make a donation to help cover our costs.

## Have hope

Last month, Greg Clark, the planning minister, asked the Planning Inspectorate (responsible for appeals) to ensure that residents' views are respected if developers try to overturn "local plans" (such as Camden's policies protecting the reservoir). He also said "land that ... makes an enormously important contribution to the well-being of residents and wildlife ... should be kept that way". We agree. And with your help, we really can keep it that way.

# ACT NOW. YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU!