

## **14 Jan 2011 - URGENT: Gondar Gardens reservoir - planning application imminent**

Well, we said Linden Wates had been too quiet for comfort.

**The managing director of Wates Development said today (14 Jan 2011) that they expect to submit a planning application for the reservoir site within "a week or a fortnight".**

About the new fencing ... as many of you know, this week LW distributed letters saying they would fence-off the reservoir roof for "safety reasons" and then started work the same day. So much for advance warning and consultation.

Thank you to everyone who has called / texted / emailed about this. We've immediately complained to LW about the fencing and about their approach to informing us. We've asked them some specific questions about the fencing decision, we've asked to see the "safety report" and we've specifically requested that the fencing is see-through wire mesh rather than solid hoarding. And we have pointed out that this action is likely to generate as much anger as cutting down the trees, exactly one year ago.

One immediate effect is that the managing director of Wates Developments telephoned to 'understand our concerns'. Well, now he knows. And he did say they expect to submit a planning application for the reservoir site within "a week or a fortnight". Well, now we know.

Everyone's voice matters – please keep writing to LW (c/o Rowena Collins, PPS, Langham House, 302-308 Regent Street, London W1B 3AT [rowena.collins@ppsgroup.co.uk](mailto:rowena.collins@ppsgroup.co.uk) ) and to Glenda Jackson MP (House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA, [jacksong@parliament.uk](mailto:jacksong@parliament.uk)). We'll talk more about responding the planning application as soon as we know more – please be ready to voice your views.

We've also asked Camden about when fencing becomes development that requires planning permission. But it may be the case that they are allowed to do what they're doing.

That's all for now! Welcome to some additional members: we really need your support. Please see our previous newsletters and other information at [www.gara-westhampstead.co.uk](http://www.gara-westhampstead.co.uk) .

Yours,

David Yass

Chair, Gondar and Agamemnon Residents Association

## **10 Jan 2011 reservoir update - one year with Linden Wates**

Happy 2011 to all our members and supporters. It's one year since Linden Homes and Wates Developments (LW) bought the reservoir site from Thames Water (11 January) and within a week (17 January) cut down the trees along the street frontage - see some pictures at [www.gara-westhampstead.co.uk](http://www.gara-westhampstead.co.uk).

Since that very unpleasant shock, LW have put up hoardings; employed architects and other consultants; and held a pre-application meeting with Camden. Following the open days in July and

October, LW have gone very quiet. Too quiet. So we asked them what they're up to. Here's their response ...

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In response to the questions you have raised, the feedback received from the latest [October 2010] public exhibition is currently being verified by the Consultation Institute. Once this has taken place, we will publish the document on the website and provide you with a copy. This document will also form part of the planning application submitted to the London Borough of Camden.

We have held ongoing meetings with Camden Council officers regarding our proposals, but we have not undertaken any further member engagement.

Linden Homes and Wates Developments have been finalising the proposals over the last couple of months, but there have been no substantial changes to the development plans since the public exhibition in October. Ongoing reports and surveys for the planning submission are being prepared and an application is still due to be submitted in the early part of next year.

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As you can see, we can expect LW to press ahead sometime soon. Our position remains that the land is protected as open space and a site of nature conservation interest. We need everyone to keep vigilant and be ready to spring into a fury of letter-writing and objections. We also need your 2011 subscriptions - please deliver £5 individual / £10 household to Sam Dawes, 12 Agamemnon Road - many thanks.

Looking ahead, please put these 2011 dates in your diary ...

Wed 4th May - GARA AGM provisional date - we might bring this earlier if we need an EGM in response to any developments

Sun 5th June 2011 - The Big Lunch - a great event last year (thank you Hillfield and Aldred Roads for organising this), so let's do it again

Sat/Sun 2nd/3rd July - Jester Festival provisional date

And don't forget our website [www.gara-westhampstead.co.uk](http://www.gara-westhampstead.co.uk). Say YES to nature preservation. Say NO to habitat destruction.

All the best for a happy, quiet and green new year,

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Yours,

David Yass

Chair, Gondar and Agamemnon Residents Association