

Reservoir Update – Nov 2010

It was great to see so many of you at our extraordinary general meeting on 20th October. Thank you all for a lively debate and for making your views so clear. This really helps us in dealing with Linden Wates. Key points made during the discussion included:

- Camden's strategy is to support the preservation of open space and sites of nature conservation importance.
- We have successfully protected the site to date; there's no need to think that the developers will get their way.
- If Linden Wates were to get permission for a "small" development, they could then apply for a larger one and it would be judged on the increase, not on the absolute size of the new proposal – if we allow the door to open a crack, we won't be able to stop it there.
- If we succeed in preserving the site this time, then there is a risk of another developer coming along with a worse proposal in a few years – but we would be confident in our ability to preserve the site – this risk is smaller than allowing development now.
- Our watchword remains **"YES to Nature Preservation, NO to Destruction of Habitat"**

Following the meeting, we've told Linden Wates that:

Interest was such that we had to hire a hall to accommodate all those who wished to attend. A number of local politicians also attended the meeting to listen to residents' views.

The discussion from the floor focussed overwhelmingly on the importance of retaining open space in Camden and how to protect the reservoir site from any development. We specifically invited views from anybody in the room who was happy with any aspect of the proposed development. Nobody offered any such view.

A total of 62* people supported, and none opposed, a motion to "continue to support Camden's policy of protecting the reservoir site as Private Open Space and a Site of Nature Conservation Importance; and therefore to oppose any planning application to develop the site".

[*details provided to L-W, including abstentions]

Our main focus over the next few weeks is to prepare for any planning application that Linden Wates might submit. We will need to convince Camden to keep its nerve and not be seduced by a "small, sensitive, eco-friendly scheme". Here's how you can help:

- Tell us if you are an architect, ecologist, planning or eco-housing expert (we will need to challenge every aspect of any application).
- Pay your GARA subscription (£5 individual or £10 household) – please send cheques to "Gondar and Agamemnon Residents' Association" to 42 Gondar Gardens or 12 Agamemnon Road.

- Look out for wildlife and keep a record of what you see on the reservoir – survey forms and guidance on our website. If you see slow worms then send us an email with the date and location.
- **Visit our website www.gara-westhampstead.co.uk** and encourage your friends to do so – many thanks to Richard Vilton in Chase Mansions for setting this up (see what amazing value you can add when you ask “what can I do to help?”).

GARA website

Yes, we have one – see above!

Other News

West Hampstead community Christmas Market ... message from the organisers ...

To support local businesses and the community in West Hampstead and Fortune Green and to provide a festive Christmas event, we have secured funding from Camden Council for a community Christmas Market to be held on West End Green on **Saturday 11th December, 2010 between 11am and 3.30pm**. There will be 20 stalls devoted to selling goods for the festive season. We are hoping to attract a mixture of local shops and local craftspeople unlike the Jester Festival which includes jumble stalls/political and community groups.

We hope you, your friends and neighbours will come on the day and support this initiative.

For further information, please email westhampsteadxmasmarket@gmail.com. Or call Jody on 07765214867. If you know anyone who might like to take a stall, contact Flick on 07768033916.

--

Yours,
David Yass
Chair, Gondar and Agamemnon Residents Association