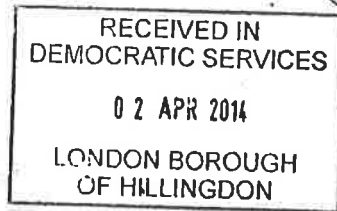


YEADING
PAUL RICHARDS

27

02/04/13: NOH (L)



Dear Michelle Gleeson,

We would like to bring to your attention concerns that local residents have regarding the development of land between Cerne Close and Camden Avenue. The site was recently cleared of rubbish and a boundary fence erected. Hillingdon council are currently turning the land into an open space, with the aim of regenerating a previously neglected site for the benefit of the neighbourhood.

Our main areas of concern are firstly with the lack of consultation. We only became aware of the park when it was announced in the Hillingdon People magazine. At no point before this have the council informed residents of their intentions and have therefore missed the opportunity for valuable input from the stakeholders most affected by this development. The idea of a park is not only an inappropriate solution for the site; it has been simply imposed on residents. We have a couple of alternative ideas for the land but would prefer that the site is left as it is – cleaned up and protected from fly tipping. Our other main concern is with security, especially for homeowners whose gardens back directly onto the site.

The chain link boundary fence has been put up within a few inches of the back gardens of Cerne close. As a means of keeping the site clear and deterring dumping of rubbish it is fine. As a fence separating private properties from a public open space it is unacceptable. It is inadequate to prevent anyone from climbing over into these properties and into the access way behind Camden Avenue. The size shape of the land will merely provide a secluded and private area for drinking and drug use during the day when most people out. We feel that we are now more vulnerable to burglary and, given that the gardens in Cerne Close are quite small, to noise and anti-social behaviour during spring and summer months.

The initial response from the council was an email sent by Jamie Bell, a technical officer for the Green Spaces Team. It was unsatisfactory and felt dismissive of our concerns. It made clear that this project was already a done deal whether we liked it or not. A fact borne out when ground works started on Tuesday 25th March. Coincidentally this was the day that our MP, John McDonnell, visited Cerne Close to see the problem for himself. He was shocked by the actions of the council and agreed that the space was not suitable for this type of development. He also pointed out that he had been campaigning for some time for Brookside Park to be redeveloped to help tackle antisocial behaviour in the area – a reason cited for the creation of this pocket park. Together with Minet County Park there is ample provision in the area for "better quality spaces" that increase "opportunities for getting together, healthy living, relaxation, play and contact with nature" to quote from the brush-off email.

Ⓝ HON:EI/40/50

"Putting People First" is a standout headline in the recent Hillingdon People magazine but all the people that we have spoken to are not happy with the behaviour of the local council; it's lack of communication, transparency and consultation. This is reflected in the number of signatories to the petition we have started, a copy of which I enclose with this letter.

We are calling for a halt to any further development of the spaces behind our back gardens.

We request the minutes of all the meetings that have taken place relating to development of the space behind the Cerne close and Camden Avenue and a meeting with councillors and local residents to discuss all the concerns that we have.

We look forward to your response to this letter,

Yours sincerely,

Mr Julian Gaskarth

Mr Nilesh Solanki