

Subject: FW: Threat to Metropolitan Open Land by Ally Pally - help save site for wildlife

From: Janet Shapiro

Sent: 27 April 2017 15:03

To: LDF

Subject: Threat to Metropolitan Open Land by Ally Pally - help save site for wildlife

This is a response from Janet Shapiro,

I have made an earlier response through Public Voice. The plan is so huge that I missed this proposal for the Metropolitan Open Land by Ally Pally so I am making an additional comment.

Apparently the Wood Green Area plan includes a proposal to build 304 housing units on the former filter beds at Hornsey Water Works at the foot of Ally Pally.

The Hornsey waterworks site at the eastern end of Alexandra Park includes the open reservoirs and an area of hard standing that was formerly four filter beds. It is designated Metropolitan Open Land. This designation was included as part of the previous statutory plan for the Borough – the Unitary Development Plan – which was adopted on 1 November 2006.

As a Friend of the Earth I am concerned that we retain ecological diversity in the borough where possible. I note that when the filter beds were operational they provided habitat for a lot of insects, which in turn supported the House Martins that nested along the houses facing the Park; and the many bats that roosted in the park or in the New River tunnel off Station Road, but the draft Area Action Plan proposes that the filter bed area should be designated for a medium rise housing development for 304 units. Thames Water – which owns the site - has previously argued that the Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) designation should be revoked for this area.

I would prefer that the whole of the filter bed site is retained as MOP, but at the very least part of it (at least 50%) should be set aside for habitat creation that reflects the rich resource it provided in the past. This would compensate in part for the impact on visual amenity that would be created by building housing several storeys high on the remainder of the site.

I am grateful to Quentin Given, Co-ordinator Tottenham & Wood Green Friends of the Earth for alerting me to this proposal. I am sure a lot of others would be concerned if they knew about the proposal.

Yours

Janet Shapiro

Please acknowledge my objection.