



To: LB Haringey  
Alexandra House  
10 Station Road  
London, N22 7TR.

From: Shepherd Cot Trust  
Shepherds Cot  
London N8 8JJ

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2026

For the attention of the Case Officer for Planning Application HGY/2026/0579

Dear Mr Keyte,

We write to you in our capacity as trustees of the Shepherds Cot Trust (SCT). The SCT, affiliated to Fields in Trust, owns the freehold of the land and holds this in trust for the three beneficiary clubs (Hanley TC, Highgate C&LTC and North London CC). Georgians TC, who are not a beneficiary club, has a leasehold interest in its site and SCT is their landlord. All the beneficiary clubs are owned and run not-for-profit by their members.

As trustees we have a duty to balance the aims of preserving the land in its natural state and allowing for the practice and enjoyment of outdoor sport on the land. In our balancing exercise we have concluded that we must object to the planning application for a fixed and permanent canopy over Georgians' padel courts, at least in its present form.

We have considered representations from the member clubs who appoint us but do not bind our decision making.

Our view is informed by a belief that the proposed canopy would be visually disfiguring to the whole site, and as many objectors, some of whom are club members, have pointed out, would detract from the enjoyment local users get from spending time in this unique and rare patch of open space spending time and playing sport within an otherwise intensely developed and populated urban area.

The land has existed in its present form for over a century with no structures other than the clubhouses and the caretaker's bungalow. We do not currently think it desirable to depart from that. The beneficiary clubs have all respected the exhortation for outdoor sports and not sought to cover any of their facilities.

We emphasise that we have had no input into the application which was submitted in breach of a clause in the lease, renewed recently by the owners of Georgians Club, which requires the landlord's consent to make changes to any buildings, facilities or land in the tenant's demise.

We remain, as we must, prepared to consider future plans by Georgians TC but for the moment are clearly of the view that what is proposed is not suitable and should be refused.

Another serious concern is the precedent that would be set for covering outdoor sporting facilities on what is Metropolitan Open Land should the Georgians planning application be approved. The intention to cover a substantial part of the Georgians facility seems directly counter to the requirements stipulated by the MOL designation held by Shepherd's Cot Trust.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Kind regards

Richard Tusting  
*Chair and on behalf of the Shepherds Cot Trust*