

FAO: Nathan Keyte Planning Services,
Haringey Council, River Park House, 225 High Road, London N22 8HQ
01 March 2024

RE: Planning application HGY/2023/3217

Site location: Land to the north west of 27 Shepherds Close, London N6 5AG

I'm Momo Putnam, 18 years old, a resident of Shepherds Close, living there since I was born.

I'm aware that while I was growing up, so many times the small plot of land was threatened to be developed for building someone's large house, and each occasion Shepherds Close residents working together, with help of local organizations' support whose concern echoing about the local ecology and the local community, to protect the precious 'green-land'.

I hear, it was originally divided from a large garden of No.27, - that has been a vital 'ecological buffer zone' between Parkland Walk and a small residential community of Shepherds Close,

However, I was shocked to see that all the trees, shrubs, other plants and wildlife are all brutally culled, especially disturbing to see the exposed tree stumps were the only ones left on the ground, - where once these were the tall trees resemble of X'mas trees, lined up to the entrance of the foot-path. I walked passing by the dense green woodland like small patch of land everyday, and suddenly it was gone, - as if I was tricked or dreaming, but it must have been a nightmare..

Nothing was left, - no signs of life anymore, they are all are gone, and then I was even more disturbed learning that it was done without the council's permission, and the person who did it was the one who applied for the planning permission, it was refused in November 2021, and just lost his appeal 10 days ago.

I felt angry when I heard about it, because, - "yes, he bought the land, but he has no chance to build a house there now, and he must know that he needed a permission before he pulled the tall trees down, and no need to clear out all the trees and plants which were there for very long time, and it had hosted many wild creatures as a part of our local eco-system.

I heard that some of the young residents sobbed and questioned their parents, when they saw the aftermath that the only debris left behind was some woodchip, - "Why did they cut down all the trees and all the plants, and everything? Why were they all

taken away? Where are all the insects and creatures gone?”, and these parents were lost for words what to say to them, not to know how to explain about it without given further disturbance, not traumatizing them, it was too difficult to tell them ‘what happened and why?’ for the young children to comprehend it, because they found it hard to process it themselves.

Since then the area was closed off by the temporary metal barriers with grey fabric that we often see at construction sites, and it became like a construction site. Then later they were replaced by tall wooden-board fences that completely blocked off the area, and they are very high so that the entrance of footpath has become dark and claustrophobic, I’m a bit scared to walk alone there now.

Recently my mother told me that the person who cleared all the trees is applying it again, so I looked at the plans with her, to know ‘what does the proposed building look like this time?’

We were shocked to see that the house he wishes to build is much bigger than any houses in the Close nearby, and attached onto the very tall garage which is at the edge of the pavement where it already became a dark corner from his walled-fence blocking the light and views, - there is no chance of getting reasonable natural light, and the narrow pavement is surrounded by three very tall buildings in three directions (another very tall garage wall, and the steps of the foot-path is in between the two garage buildings), - it looks like what we may see at a large council housing complex, where some of the passages looks like a ‘dead-end of a death-row’, certainly unsafe to walk there, even in broad day light, too scared to even try to go there since it would be very dark and sleazy, no way I can see what’s going on around the corner, when I walk through after the foot-path steps..

Again I felt angry, “Who designed a building like that? Does s/he have any idea and any considerations for people live here?”

I’m sure that if any buildings closely built there, it destroys the atmosphere of the area, and many good things about The Shepherds Close.

The foot-path is one my favourite things about the Close, walking along the small allotment without sight of cars, I feel safe to walk and played with my friends there even when I was quite young which was less common even for my generation.

I feel so sorry about the people of No. 26 & 27, if the proposed house is ever to be built, since their bedroom & bathroom windows are facing their bedroom and bathroom widows at so close distance, - it’s not right to be looked in, their privacy should be protected.

I think that the houses on Shepherds Close are all small (with very small rooms), but well designed, - all the houses face slightly different directions to avoid facing to each other, a long narrow living/dining room with large windows to let light in, and some

houses back onto Parkland Walk which is a bonus, and I certainly appreciate it, the view, the sounds of birds filtering traffic noises, relative darkness at night that helps for getting a good nights sleep, too.

Talking about the layout of the houses, I wish to talk about the volume of the proposed house, since my house is at the bottom part of slope and the houses are on half-basement like my house, - so that any buildings on higher level look bigger than it is and imposing.

Thinking about the volume of the building, I dread to imagine that what it looks like if the house is ever to be built, - may it look like an elephant or a giant monster (it would be so big because the proposed house is attached with a tall building of the garage) appearing among a group of three serpents (three groups of terraced-houses - No6 to No11, No12 to No17 and No18 to No27)?

This looks like a page from a children's storybook, and if this is a storybook, then I'd rather read and see a book with an image of trees with abundance of nature with full of wild life, with the three serpents in Shepherds Close, where more children growing up now than when I was child.

I wish to keep the 'green land' for them, and also for future generations of children, - it's a precious 'gem', the land serves many purposes, of course hosting the wildlife as a part of local eco-system, but also truly a 'buffer-zone' for our small clusters of housings between Parkland Walk that circulate air, regulate heat and moisture, retain water, see through light, provide shade, soften the environment, and it's naturally so nice to have green space close by where our houses are built so tightly together and many cars on the road, - we need the land as 'green land' as originally intended and as always has been so far, until the current landowner destroyed it all, covering all up and blocking everything out, - that's no good, not right, and not fair for the land and our community.

Lastly I wish to tell what I also love about where I live, is even though Shepherds Close is so close to the tube and busy main road of Archway road, yet once coming into the Close and coming into the house, it's very quiet, as if not being in London, - a quiet and tranquil atmosphere, - it is also due to being a cul-de-sac road, as if of a private road where who I see are mostly the Shepherds Close residents, or friends & families visiting there, or some delivery & service persons.

The recent years more young families have moved into the Close, so that there is a strong sense of community, and the community spirit is even more stronger now, - maybe because of this 'common good' cause!?

Even though the land is owned privately, the land has been protected as a 'green land' as a 'space for special significance', and should be kept protected.

I know that most people from Shepherds Close have made objections to the planning application, which is natural responses because of what was done to the land, - we are very angry, but more convinced about the strong need for protecting the very special 'green land', next to Parkland walk and our houses.

We feel more stronger together, resilient and being hopeful, - seeing an image of 'abundance of precious 'green gem' of the land by our doorsteps, with 'The houses of three serpents' (& another serpent – No 1 to 5)!

Please note that I also object to the address of the site is given as '28 Shepherds Close' by Haringey Council, - as I understand that the address can be used once it is officially registered at The Land Registry, - therefore may it be more accurately be called as 'Land to the north west of No. 27 Shepherds Close'?