



## SAVE TREES IN GUNNERSBURY

23<sup>rd</sup> Oct 2009

Dear Sir,

We live near Gunnersbury Park, in west London, which was owned by a branch of your family until the 1920s. The estate contains a number of listed buildings, but the Park itself is also listed and is acknowledged to be one of the top London parks.

Through many years of underfunding and neglect, the amenities in the Park – now owned jointly by Ealing and Hounslow Councils - have deteriorated to such an extent and the buildings have fallen into such disrepair that many millions of pounds are required to restore them and regenerate the Park.

The Councils hired a firm of consultants to produce an Options Appraisal of suggestions on how to fund the necessary regeneration. Unfortunately, the only option they proposed was to sell 5.6 acres of the Park, with the destruction of 400 mature trees and woodland, for the construction of 96 houses and a block of flats. A survey to assess public opinion was patchily distributed locally and contained severely biased questions. We await the outcome. However, in a poll carried out by a local newspaper, 94% of those who responded were against the proposal.

A group of concerned local residents formed a new pressure group, Save Trees In Gunnersbury – STIG, which, while supporting plans to restore the listed buildings, is primarily committed to the preservation of the green spaces of Gunnersbury Park. We have called on the Councils to widen the scope of the study to allow funding from other budgets and to explain fully the impact of each option on both the environment and the local community.

We felt you might be sympathetic to our campaign to safeguard Gunnersbury Park for future generations, not just as a member of the Rothschild family, but in your capacity as director of the trust that runs the beautiful Exbury Gardens and as co-author of The Rothschild Gardens. We would be extremely grateful for any practical suggestions or help and for an expression of your support.

Yours sincerely

Giuseppina Ortu  
(on behalf of STIG)

STIG – Save Trees In Gunnersbury  
stig2009contact@googlemail.com  
07719 387 106

For correspondence: 9 Ash Grove, W5 4AU, London UK

President: Giuseppina Ortu  
Vice President: Lucy Collins  
Treasurer: Martin McCloghry