



SAVE TREES IN GUNNERSBURY

21 Oct 2009

Sir,

In view of Your Royal Highness's support for the Save the Rainforest Campaign, we would respectfully like to bring to Your Royal Highness's attention the threat to another piece of woodland – albeit on a much smaller scale.

We live near Gunnersbury Park, which was visited by Her Majesty The Queen in 2002. The estate was owned until the 1920s by the Rothschild family and contains many listed buildings as well as being itself a listed Park, acknowledged to be one of the top parks in London. It is now owned jointly by Ealing and Housnlow Councils, and following many years of underfunding and neglect, its amenities have deteriorated to such an extent and the buildings have fallen into such disrepair that many millions of pounds are now required to restore them.

The Councils hired a firm of consultants to produce an Options Appraisal with proposals on how to finance the necessary restoration of the Park. Unfortunately, the only option they put forward is the sale of 5.6 acres of the Park to build 96 houses and a block of flats. This would involve cutting down 400 mature trees and woodland. In a poll carried out by a local newspaper, 94 % of those who responded declared themselves against such a plan.

Concerned local residents have formed a 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 the full impact of their proposals both on the environment and the local community.

We would like respectfully to ask Your Royal Highness for a statement of support for our campaign to save our precious green spaces for future generations.

Yours sincerely

Giuseppina Ortu

(on behalf of STIG)

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