

# THE FRIENDS OF GUNNERSBURY PARK & MUSEUM

25 Hartington Road, London W4 3TL  
registered charity no 286310

020 8994 4231  
gunnersburyfriends.org

Sarah Scannell  
Planning Dept,  
Civic Centre,  
Lampton Park,  
Hounslow TW3 4DN

31 January 2016

Dear Sarah Scannell

## The Chiswick Curve

On behalf of the Friends of Gunnersbury Park and Museum I am writing to urge the Planning Committee to reject the Starbones application. Our main reason for this is the damaging effect it will have on the experience of the visitors to the Park and to the Museum.

We have looked closely at the photographs supplied by the applicant to show the visual impact, and each in their turn rely on subtle positioning of the camera or the use of trees in full leaf to diminish the effect. We feel this is not acceptable in a document for public consultation. We assert that it will have a massive visual impact on park users as they move through the estate.

We also wholly reject the repeated argument in the Design and Access statement that the building is of such high architectural quality that the effect of looking upon it will be beneficial to the viewer.

The Park is enjoying a significant restoration, with many millions of HLF and Ealing and Hounslow Councils' funds. It is considered to be of both regional and national importance. One of the key elements of this restoration is the revival and protection of the historic views within the estate. The Curve will dominate many of those views, and reduce any park visitor's pleasure.

The impact of such large towers will add greatly to the experience of confinement and restriction in a landscape which offers openness and freedom. People have enough of that in their daily lives – many go to parks to experience the very opposite, fresh air, the enjoyment of the natural world, the changes of light and weather.

The restoration plans are predicated on attracting over one million visitors a year to the Park and Museum. The Gunnersbury Sports Hub Transport Analysis assesses that it will separately attract 380,000 visits p.a. We note that the traffic analysis for the Curve does



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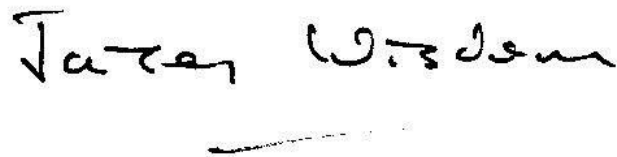
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not take into account the restoration of Gunnersbury Park and the predicted increase in visitors. We are also very aware of the pressure on the North Circular Road and the Gunnersbury Roundabout, especially on Sundays, which is the peak day for park visiting, and suggest that even the impact of the extra traffic generated by the Curve will affect family decisions to visit Gunnersbury.

Finally, we are very concerned about the long-term effect of permission being granted for such a bulky building with its two tall towers because of the precedent which will be set for the development of other land in the area. We are especially concerned about the cumulative impact of developments already in the planning process, and for others, such as the B&Q land or the Power Road area, which will result in a sequence of high buildings confining and degrading the experience of park visitors.

Yours sincerely,



James Wisdom  
Chair, Friends of Gunnersbury Park and Museum

