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14 October 2020

Bow Common Gas Works Planning Application - PA/19/02379

We are writing to object to the height of the resubmitted plans, which, in spite of some welcome reductions, continue to threaten the wildlife and ecosystems in and around Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park.

The area of the Cemetery Park which will be overshadowed by the development remains vast - in excess of 100,000 sq.ft in the early mornings from January to March. Blocks A & B of the development, in particular, threaten to cast an extensive, uninterrupted block of shade onto the Cemetery Park meadows.

The threat from overshadowing is mirrored by the threat from light pollution from these blocks at night.

We believe the current plans are **not consistent national planning policy or the borough's Local Plan:**

- **Paragraphs 174 and 175 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2019)** which safeguards wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks
- **Policy D.OWS3 of the Tower Hamlets Local Plan** which protects sites of ecological importance from overbearing development
- **Policy D.DH6 of the Local Plan** which stipulates that developments with tall buildings are proportionate to their surroundings
- **Policy S.OWS1 of the Local Plan** which protects open spaces

Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park is an award-winning nature reserve, a site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation, designated Metropolitan Open Land and one of London's most important semi-wild woodlands.

This green space has been a lifeline for many residents who lack access to outdoor space during the COVID crisis. There is significant opposition to a development of this height and scale amongst residents and a petition of over 12,000 signatures.

We urge that you implement further reasonable reductions in the height of the development, in particular the middle section blocks A and B. With our partners at Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, we feel our opposition to the scheme can be abated with further height reductions.

Yours faithfully,

					
Cllr Asma Begum Bow West	Cllr David Edgar Mile End	Cllr Asma Islam Mile End	Cllr Puru Miah Mile End	Cllr James King Limehouse	Cllr Dan Tomlinson Bromley North