

Late Representation re: Planning Application Oakley, 188 Wilmslow Road, M14 6LJ

SEFRG <sefrg.residents@gmail.com>

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To: Robert Griffin <robert.griffin@manchester.gov.uk>; Planning <Planning@manchester.gov.uk>; Julie Roscoe <julie.roscoe@manchester.gov.uk>

Dear Mr Griffin,

Please accept this late representation re: Application 129020/FO/2020. This matter is on the agenda for 2nd Sept and I would be really grateful if the committee could have sight of this and especially have the chance to view these photos together with the photo from the Shakespearean Gardens which is in the agenda pack.

I only had a chance to see the pack last week and within that, the photo showing an image of the new development from the garden. I was absolutely shocked to see the impact of both the tower building and wrap around building - and I think a lot of other people were too. It is even more dominant than I could have imagined.

These photos of the garden were taken on Friday. This garden is completely cared for by volunteers and is a beautiful and much loved area in Platt Fields, many people call it a hidden gem - it is sheltered, sunny and a quiet haven away from city life. This development, if granted, will completely blight the garden; the noise and light pollution, the overbearing nature of the buildings, the effect on the trees and the loss of sunlight would be devastating. For people like me, who live in South East Fallowfield, the park is the only community resource we have -and it is a lifeline for many of us, especially those with little or no gardens - of which there are many. The garden is divided into quadrants and is bigger than these few photos suggest. When you enter the sunken garden you come down some central steps and it is almost like entering an outside theatre. It was originally a walled, kitchen garden for Ashfields - a Georgian mansion which was demolished years ago.

The history of the gardens is very special and I believe it should be viewed as an heritage asset in the same way that the Villa itself is. There aren't many public Shakespearean Gardens around, most are in North America, one is in mainland Europe in Paris and there are just a few in the UK, including the one in Stratford, so it is quite a rarity. These gardens were mainly created to celebrate the tercentenary of Shakespeare's death in 1916 but due to the war, the ones in England are often a few years after. Ours is 1922 and we'll be celebrating next year with a series of events.

The woman behind ours is an absolute inspiration - her name was Rosa Grindon. In the 1911 census, she described herself as a suffragette and lecturer and she lived on Cecil Street. In reality she was more suffragist than suffragette but she was a huge supporter of the suffrage movement. She was involved in many philanthropic activities in the city and a bronze plaque was made in memory of her and currently hangs in the central reference library - it describes her as 'a dedicated citizen'

Rosa's two passions were Shakespeare and botany and our Shakespearean Garden is obviously a fusion of these interests. Apparently she took cuttings from the garden at Stratford for ours. She also regularly lectured at the Shakespeare festivals in Stratford (sharing a stage with the likes of Ellen Terry) and usually talked about Shakespeare's depiction of women. She was married to the leading Manchester botanist, Leo Grindon and she gave the Shakespearean stained glass window in the Central Ref to the city in his memory.

Our group who tend the garden are planning a series of events catering for local people; nature studies for local children, events linking to Platt Hall, theatrical performances, outside keep fit classes for older people, brass bands etc. If this development goes ahead, it will ruin all this.

I'm sorry this is late I just felt I had to write and tell you about this. Much of this history of the garden was lost until recently. I hope you don't mind me going into this detail but it's hard to convey the garden's importance from a historical point of view without mentioning it.

There are people who come into the garden every day, especially older people, and many of them have no idea about the planning application. I know this because the consultation - as shown in the agenda pack - was very limited and you can see that it was mainly the streets very close to the park which are largely rented to students which were leafleted and, beyond the MEN, most the other publications and media outlets were not the sort of outlets which would reach local residents, especially older people. When I have mentioned the application to regular visitors to the garden, almost everyone I have spoken to had no idea.

Thanks for reading this.

Yours sincerely,

Kattie Kincaid
27 Clifton Avenue,
Fallowfield,
M14 6UD

PS I tried sending this from my hotmail account but it's not working at the moment so I've sent it from the residents' group account - this is just coming from me personally but I'm sure a lot of local people share my concerns.





Sent from my iPhone

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