



## PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL SERVICE DEVELOPMENT CONTROL DIVISION

## **MINUTES**

Meeting : **DEVELOPMENT CONTROL FORUM** –The Lodge, Church lane, N17

(Mortuary ) – HGY/2007/0109

Date : 1<sup>st</sup> February

Place : Risley School, Tottenham N17

Present : Paul Tomkins (Chair), Tay Makoon, Cllr Hare, Cllr Adje, Cllr Bevan, Keith

Betts Local Residents(approx 15), Tottenham Journal, Keith Betts,

Architects and their representatives

Minutes by : Tay Makoon

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	Paul Tomkins introduced the meeting by welcoming everyone and introducing officers, members. He also explained the purpose of the meeting that it was not a decision making meeting and that the meeting is being minuted and the minutes will be attached to the officers' report when reported to the Planning Application Sub-Committee. He went through the agenda and pointed out the housekeeping rules.	
	The proposal Construction of underground mortuary alterations including partial demolition and single storey infill extension to existing vacant office buildings, excavation of vehicle access and turning areas, landscaping	
	Presentation By Keith Betts- Head of Environmental Health Keith talked about the background information in getting this application to this stage. It took 5 years to get to this stage; it will be shared by Haringey and Enfield. He described the purpose of the site and what is being proposed is a mortuary, where the coroner will send unexpected death to undergo post mortem to ascertain the cause of death. The families of the deceased will be stressed and grieving and will need to be in a supporting environment. The site is felt to be the most suitable location as it already house a cemetery near by with the restoration of the lodge will provide a sympathetic	
	environment for the bereaved families. The lodge is will be restored it will have a discreet entrance, with offices for mortuary staff. The deceased will be brought to the mortuary in an unmarked vehicle and will go directly to the underground mortuary to be unloaded and stored until post mortem can be carried out. The families visiting the	

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	deceased will be shown to a waiting room and will have access to	
	the bereavement garden which will be peaceful and calming. The	
	mortuary will have minimum car parking spaces; it will be a no noise	
	operation. It will be a 24hours seven days a week operation. Post	
	mortem will be carried out Monday, Tuesday and Friday.	

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## Main Issues

- · Relocation of existing mortuary facility
- Location adjacent to cemetery and church
- Development on Metropolitan Open Land
- Design
- Impact on Conservation Area
- Vehicle access
- Landscaping
- MOL

## **Questions from the Floor**

Q1: When is the proposed demolition for the restoration take place? Answer: The lodge is being partially demolished and replace the link 90% of the building is being kept.

Q2: Who took the decision to place the mortuary here and why has it taken this long to inform local residents as it was 5 years in the making? Answer: The decision was made by the Council to move the Mortuary from Hornsey as the location was no longer viable. The research to relocate took 2 years and a further 3 years to secure funding from the Government and make sure it was value for money. The proposal is costing two and a quarter million pounds and 1.5 million is coming from the Government. 500 thousand from Enfield. We only secured funding from the Government in April 2006, The Planning Service knew about this application the later part of last year.

Q3: Why is the new built above the ground, the design is not very nice? Answer: We did look at other alternatives and this is the best option. However, PT said the Council is still looking at the finer details and will look at this again.

Q4: I like the design but not the timber cladding as it will look awful.

Answer: It will not be timber cladding, stock brick is what will be used.

Q5: Why can't you relocate the underground layout to the land west of the site, it is a large piece of land and could accommodate Answer: The Land is Metropolitan Open Land and has a high protection designation and due to this designation makes it impossible to use the land to the west. We did look at other options, renovating the lodge was the best option.

Q6: Whilst I like the idea of the underground mortuary, the site will attract crime and prostitution. What security will you be having on the site and will it be 24hours?

Answer: The site will be managed with CCTV cameras, discreet lighting

Item at entrances and back. Q7: This is a high crime area and the security measures you are proposing is not adequate, you need 24 hour security Answer: We will do our up most to stop people going onto the site; we can work with the community enforcement officers to provide cover as well as a contact person on call. Q8: I don't like the mortuary being there, why do you feel you need to move the mortuary from Hornsey. Answer: The reason for choosing this site is that we wanted to restore the lodge and make use of the location as it is close to the cemetery; this was by far the most suitable location. Q9: I am concerned that this is a 24hr operational site and the disruption caused by people coming and going. Answer: There should be very little disruption as the coroner's office would notify the mortuary when a delivery is being made and the duty officer will come and open the building to receive the delivery and the deceased person will then be refrigerated until the post mortem is carried out. It is only after those times are the families of the deceased will be arriving to view the body. Until then the operation will be very low key. Q10: Is it necessary to remove so many trees from the site. Answer: Not many trees are being removed, the architect showed the trees being removed. Q11: I think 24hr hour use is a sensitive issue, it is already a badly lit road and largely used by school children and fly tipping. Why can't you change round the layout to improve traffic, with better lighting. Answer: This is a Council owned building and we need to look at the wider issue. Q12: Cllr Hare – I have four points to raise. 1) Surfaces will they be permeable? Answer: Yes, hard surfaces, black paving, and permeable surfaces 2) With regards to retaining the character – can you put infrared security? Answer: Yes it is a possibility and we will 3) With regards to the lift shaft it does stick out- it may improve the visual aspect by putting a trellis or wine mesh for ivy to grow on. Answer: It is a good idea and we will take that on board. 4) Landscaping – You need to focus on nature species Answer: Yes - We will be doing that. Q13: How much will you get for the Hornsey Site and will you be investing some of that in Tottenham also are there any plans to bring the coroners court to the Tottenham site. Answer: The coroners office will be moving to Barnet High Court and in terms of investment in Tottenham it is already being invested. Q14: Can you guarantee there will be no further developments in the future.

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Answer: We can't guarantee what will happen in the future, but you can rest assured that any future developments will require planning

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	permission.	
	Q15: How long will the construction work take to complete? Answer: About 10 to 12 months; from mid-summer 2007 to mid-summer 2008.	
	PT brought the meeting to a close and asked that objections be sent to the Planning Service if not already done so and to liaise with officers from the Highways department to met and discuss concerns. PT explained that there was an opportunity for further representation when the application goes to the planning application sub-committee and further details are available from the website or by contacting the Planning Service.	
	PT Thanked everyone for attending and participating in the meeting.	
	End of Meeting	

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