

COUNCIL

23 SEPTEMBER 2020

ITEM NO: 19

TITLE: "Opposition to sale of Rose Garden, Blackwall Lane"

PROPOSING COUNCILLORS: Nigel Fletcher, Geoffrey Brighty, Matt Hartley, Charlie Davis, Roger Tester, Matt Clare, John Hills, Spencer Drury, Pat Greenwell

Council notes that a statutory notice was published on 2nd September 2020 pursuant to Section 123(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 as follows:

"[T]hat the Royal Borough of Greenwich intends to dispose of land known as the "Rose Garden" Blackwall Lane, London, SE10 0SP that is currently held as public open space."

The notice then requested objections be made in writing only by 5pm on the 17th September.

Council believes the disposal of public open space is always a regrettable move, but especially so in a period when residents have come to value such amenities as never before. It notes that leading members of the current administration have criticised neighbouring local authorities for similar disposals.

Further, this Council's Parks and Open Spaces Strategy states that due to population increases, "new public open space will need to be delivered" to meet the public open space standard of 2.69ha/1000 people and the target for every resident to be within 280m of a small local public open space. It specifically highlights the Greenwich Committee area and Peninsula ward as facing a challenge in this regard. Disposal of existing public open space in that ward clearly conflicts with policies in the strategy including objective PM7, which states: "Where there is a shortage of open space, informal green spaces should be upgraded to diversify their offer providing opportunities for informal play, sport and nature conservation."

The proposal is opposed by East Greenwich Residents Association, The Greenwich Society, and received over 50 objections from residents when it was previously proposed in 2015.

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Council records its opposition to the disposal of this public open space and directs the Cabinet to halt the sale and provide a full explanation of why it was proposed.