

Wandsworth Society

Philip Whyte
49 Wandsworth Common West Side
London SW18 2EE

Ms Julia Kelly
Planning Department
Wandsworth Borough Council
Town Hall
Wandsworth High Street
London Sw18 2PU

7th December 2015

Dear Ms Kelly,

Re: Springfield University Hospital, 61 Glenburnie Road London SW17 7DJ
Application no: 2015/5306

Regrettably we are very late in responding to this planning application but nevertheless wish to put on record our views. As the Council are aware we have been closely involved with the Hospital Trust over the years and the proposals for landscaping were discussed with the Trust representatives together with their professional advisors earlier in the year when the application was in draft form.

We are pleased to note that several of the points which we raised have been addressed but especially the heavy provision of tree planting. We are delighted to note the ribbons of tree avenues and "half-avenues" which now snake and criss-cross the site following the pattern of footpaths and tracks. Our particular point about trees to the Trust, had been that the new housing blocks prominently sited on slightly higher ground to the north-west of the developed areas should be screened by a tree line to soften their impact on the open space before them. At the time, this was warmly received but it seems to have been developed as a theme to run through the new parkland to form glades and sheltered enclaves to enhance the improvements to these historic hospital grounds. They should be delightful as they grow and mature.

One feature not on the proposals, which presumably could be the subject of future negotiation and design, is the likelihood of the need for Crossrail 2 to secure a parcel of land at the northern corner of the site by Burntwood Lane, for the provision of a ventilation and access shaft for the subterranean railway and the siting of a permanent building at surface level. From information provided by Crossrail where such buildings have been landscaped elsewhere on open ground, their design can be skillfully handled.

Meanwhile we wish to put on record our Society's approval of the landscaping proposals in the current application and our continued support for this important project. We apologise again for our oversight in not responding more promptly to the application but perhaps you could advise the Planning Applications Committee on Thursday, when it meets to discuss the application, of our support.

Yours sincerely,

Philip Whyte
Vice Chair and convenor of the Planning sub committee