

PUBLIC STATEMENT

17 April 2023

Examiner's Consideration of Hybridity in the Houses of Parliament

Today marks a technical but important stage of London Parks and Gardens Trust's action to protect public parks, and specifically Victoria Tower Gardens from development. We are opposing the Government's attempt to override historic protections for a London park and build a national memorial on it without a meaningful debate in Parliament.

It is right that only Parliament can be asked to override its own century-old protections for a public park, and to carefully consider the precedents which this could set.

With our partners including Westminster Council, Holocaust Survivors and local campaigners, we are challenging the Government's attempt to limit debate on its proposals to build on a public park and have them go through 'on the nod'. We believe that the essential national effort to tackle Anti-Semitism and the principle of protecting of parks from development deserve full debate, and that when that debate ends, public scrutiny will have enhanced whatever Parliament decides.

Regrettable delays in delivering the noble aims of the Holocaust Memorial Commission are due to the Government's 2016 decision to build illegally by overriding a law which protects this park. We share the cross-party aspirations for a fitting Memorial and abhorrence of Anti-Semitism but continue to believe that this scheme is in the wrong place.

LPG Trustees

ENDS