

8<sup>th</sup> September 2015

Dear Predrag

**Ref: Proposal to charge for access to Myddelton Square Gardens**

I was so disappointed and frustrated to read the proposal to levy charges for the use of Myddelton Square.

This is (and has been for so long) a public square that is used by so many residents in the area. It is a place to exercise, enjoy a sandwich in the sun, walk a dog, meet a friend and recently for us to take our 18 month old daughter. We live in a flat on the square, and how can the financial benefit of a wealthy property developer be put before the basic needs of many? I would be utterly appalled if the square was locked, and my daughter could no longer explore a green space that we can see from our flat windows.

Not everything in Islington needs to be monetised and commercialised. It will be a sad day if the few open spaces in Islington become a source of income for private investors and only available to the elite. Surely this developer has enough money without having to resort to receiving income from regular people, to access a space that has been free to all for generations. This becomes a question of moral and ethics, and Islington council should make a stand on this important topic.

When this issue first came to rise, we were invited to hear from Islington councillors in the church in Myddelton Square. There was spirited discussion about a compulsory purchase order and a legal challenge. This has since gone quiet. Islington council need to be challenging the developer, Islington council need to be on the front foot and looking for resolution... not constantly being defensive to the latest commercial whims of the developer. PLEASE make it a priority to secure the long term future of this rare public space in our community.

I would be happy to discuss this further or join an action team if required. I also look forward to your communication on how this important matter can be resolved once and for-all.

Ian, Siobhan and Erin McCarthy