

Dear Predrag Suzic

I understand that you are taking comments on the latest proposals from Marcus Cooper for Myddelton Square.

The history of this sorry episode is that after a protracted series of planning applications, and failed appeals through 2013 and 2014 I understand that Marcus Cooper has now conceded that LBI has the entitlement to a new tenancy agreement for Myddelton Square. However his outrageous suggestion that LBI should be paying an annual rent of £100,000, based on a surveyors report built on private garden squares in Kensington and Chelsea, suggests that negotiations will be stormy.

Myddelton Square is protected under the London Squares Preservation act of 1931, and provides welcome open space to local residents and a wide group of others – such as people working nearby, dog walkers and visitors to the area.

Islington is the London borough with the smallest amount of green space and it is essential to maintain public access to squares such as this.

If the council is unable to make progress on negotiating a new lease, then the square needs to be taken into council ownership by the use of a compulsory purchase order.

This approach to keeping the square open to the public was discussed by councillors and LBI officials back in 2013/4. It needs to be rapidly put into effect.

Residents and visitors to Myddelton Square need a public space that is safe and well maintained. During the three years of dispute over the lease extension there has been minimal upkeep and no investment. The longer the lease dispute continues the more expensive the redevelopment and maintenance cost will be.

Sally Hull