

Dear Mr Suzic,

I have been a resident of Myddelton Square since 1985 and was horrified to read Marcus Coopers' latest proposals for the gardens in the centre. I do not understand the motivation behind Mr Cooper's actions, which I believe to be mischievous, but this is merely the latest in a string of different ideas which appear to have been designed solely to deprive local residents of a much loved, much needed, and very well used local amenity.

The land was given by the New River Company for the "public use of the residents" in 1821, and is protected under the Public Squares Act. It has, for nearly 200 years, been available not only to residents of Myddelton Square, but to all residents and workers in the surrounding area. In inner city London, any green space is precious and well used, and frequent users of the square include families with children, children from local schools and playgroups, people who live in apartments without their own gardens, elderly residents who might otherwise feel isolated and lonely, and local office workers during lunch breaks and after work. It is a community space which fosters the sense of community among people from diverse walks of life, which still exists in Islington.

To make the gardens a private amenity would be to destroy the purpose for which they exist. They would then only be available to those willing and able to pay for access, when the greatest need for public gardens is from those who cannot afford their own gardens - particularly young children living in flats, and the elderly for whom a stroll through the square and a chat with someone on a bench may be the high point of their day.

I strongly object to depriving the public of the use of Myddelton Square Gardens.

Yours sincerely,
Shirin Tata