

Predrag Suzic
Legal Dept
Islington Council
Town Hall
N1 2UK

OBJECTION TO LATEST PROPOSAL PUT FORWARD ON BEHALF OF MARCUS COOPER

Dear Mr Suzic

I am appalled at the latest suggestion that the Council should be charged £100,000 pa. for the lease of the Myddelton Square Gardens and that they in turn could recoup this by charging the property owners of the square upwards of £1000pa. Where does he think he is coming from? This land was given 'for the residents of the estates' by the New River Company in 1821 – which can be verified in records held at the LMA. In 1829 the lessees of newly named Myddelton Square paid Manfield and Durant Hidson to lay out ornamental gardens on the land, which has remained a well used public space to this day.

As a resident since 1964, who purchased the flat as a sitting tenant when the 'right to buy' was introduced for £28,000, like many of my neighbours, I am not of the rich gentry presumed by Marcus Cooper and struggle to maintain the beautiful location we live in. (I came to Islington in 1963 and served the borough for 39 years as an underpaid teacher...) In answer to your question, there is garden space to the rear of north side of the square and we would certainly never consider paying to use a central garden, which we believe we have the right to use in any case.....

As Churchwarden of St Mark's Church, whose land is not part of Marcus Cooper's claim, I must emphasise the impact such proposals would have on the community at large. 4th Clerkenwell Guide groups, Trinity Church and the World Community for Christian Meditation, all based in St Mark's, make regular use of the gardens under discussion. Angel Building, which has 2000 workers use Myddelton Square Gardens as their designated emergency evacuation space. They have muster points throughout the gardens – there is no other open space in the vicinity. Evacuation drills are, of course, practiced regularly. St Mark's is designated for those unable to stand outside for long periods. We could not house 2000 people. St Mark's holds a variety of community events, including weddings, which often overflow into the gardens.

As treasurer of the MSA I am very aware of the anxiety of many of the local community that this latest proposal is causing. You know that you have the support of the MSA in these deliberations.

I trust Islington Council will fight this outrageous proposal put forward by Robert Or-Ewing on behalf of Marcus Cooper and bring about a sensible new lease.

Yours sincerely,

Shirley Duggan