

## Once again can you help save historic Clerkenwell Green from Islington Council's privatisation plans?

Islington want to destroy the public conveniences and build a bunker underground and privatise a part of this ancient open space so they can rent out the historic conveniences for yet another bar, café or gallery.

### Save the Green. Object to the planning application!

PLANNING APPLICATION REFERENCE: P/2015/4907/FUL. WORKS AND CHANGE OF USE TO THE PUBLIC CONVENIENCES AT CLERKENWELL GREEN.

OBJECT – WRITE TO BORIS JOHNSON, ALL THE ISLINGTON COUNCILLORS, AND JEREMY CORBYN, SADIQ KHAN, AND EMILY THORBERRY, THE LOCAL MP.

By proposing a commercial privatisation of this historic public open space with inevitable structures, and probably tables and chairs for a café, restaurant or lounge use, in the middle of the Green, Islington Labour Council is proposing the effective destruction of public open space at Clerkenwell Green for the first time in over 1000 years. Interrupting a the public open space use; used for public assembly, leisure, and historic and current protest. Clerkenwell Green was a major battlefield for the vote. This is municipal vandalism.

The Luftwaffe, then post war redevelopment, opposed by Sir John Betjeman and others in the sixties, and later, the 1990s attempts to sell off the conveniences, have left the Green as it was and should be – a public open space that can be improved. Keep private use out of this public open space and restore the George Jenning's conveniences!

How will a private use fare during public assembly events? See the May Day 2004 crowds below. Every year there is a pre-march rally and assembly with banners laid around the public conveniences. If privatised this will damage this historic use of the Green for May Day celebrations and for everyday in the future.

May Day 2004 on the Green:



Cardinal Manning and the Catholic Temperance Movement on the Green:



Who will benefit - not the public - another café or bar in let alone on the Green is not needed?

So who is this for? Why are Islington Labour doing this and privatising open space?

**Clerkenwell Green in the late eighteenth century with the Sessions House in view. It does not have to be a roundabout!**



**This proposed use and privatisation will block public use, disrupt these historic views, and the free movement of the public across Clerkenwell Green. These views would have been seen by the many Chartists and radical demonstrators, from the days of Wilkes and Liberty, to later, when trade unionists and socialists fighting for the vote assembled, over the last 300 years. All on this on a Medieval Green with the same shape today as a 1000 years ago.**

**Crowds have assembled for mystery plays, pageants, and events, from time immemorial to when the Sessions House was built as a Court, and crowds assembled and protested as sentences. The same views can still be seen today, with the views to and from the Marx Memorial Library, where the Liberal Patriotic Society operated, and later when used by the Socialist Twentieth Century Press, where Lenin worked, and Kropotkin visited.**

**Meetings on the Green were held as a means of circumventing the laws of sedition.**

**It was a place of protest and of leisure. A place of medieval mystery plays. Today's traffic can be removed but a commercial tenant cannot. It has so much potential which this short term privatisation will wreck. A freehold privatisation was previously proposed by a Liberal Democrat Administration in the 1990s. Now history repeats itself with a Labour Administration with no history and no pride.**

**This proposal for this historic open space is a matter for London, Britain and beyond, and should not be left to a few Labour Councillors in Islington to decide. Object to this planning application.**

How to object – go on line to the Council's website and the latest application can be found at the following link and you can object on line from there:

<http://www.islington.gov.uk/services/planning/applications/comment/Pages/planning-search.aspx#header>

Or you can write and object to The Planning Department, The London Borough of Islington, 221 Upper Street, London N1 1XR. Quote reference P2015/4907/FUL.

If you support the protection of Clerkenwell Green and the possibility of fully restoring the public open space use one day for full public assembly and leisure use then contact and join the Clerkenwell Green Preservation Society – their website is at: <http://www.clerkenwellgreen.org.uk>.