



PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE
05/03/85

PROPOSED EXTENSION OF STOKE NEWINGTON
CONSERVATION AREA TO INCLUDE
ABNEY PARK CEMETERY

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING

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Classification DECISION	Enclosure M
Wards affected NORTH DEPT	

SUMMARY

1. This report recommends that Abney Park Cemetery be added to the Stoke Newington Conservation Area which was declared in 1983.

DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY

2. Abney Park Cemetery is one of the seven large cemeteries in London laid out in the period 1830 to 1840. It is of 32 acres and was formerly the grounds of two large mansions Abney House and Fleetwood House. It was opened in 1840 and has been described as "The Campo Santo of the English nonconformists".

3. A number of structures within the Cemetery are individually listed, Grade II. These are the Egyptian entrance lodges and gate fronting Stoke Newington High Street, the former gate to Abney House fronting Stoke Newington Church Street, the memorial to Isaac Watts and the Chapel. The chapel is by Hosking and of eccentric design, combining Gothic and neo-Classical elements. It is however, appropriately picturesque and has a 120 ft. steeple which is a local landmark.

4. Other features of the Cemetery are the Isaac Watts mound and a number of small monuments of high quality and interest. These have been well documented by Save Abney Park Cemetery in their recently published guide. The Cemetery also had one of the most complete arboretums in London comprising at one time 2500 varieties of shrubs and trees including over one thousand varieties of rose bush. In 1972 a blanket Tree Preservation Order was made protecting all the remaining trees and the Cemetery is of great ecological interest. The Cemetery suffered from neglect and vandalism until it was acquired by the Council in 1979 for £1. Since then much improvement works have been carried out using Partnership funds - these have included the repair, cleaning and restoration of the two entrances, lodges and forecourts, the repair and restoration of some of the monuments, provision of a new roof to the Chapel and provision of seats.

CONSIDERATIONS

5. The extension to the Cemetery would complement and adjoin the Stoke Newington Conservation Area which was declared in December 1983.

IMPLICATIONS FOR DECENTRALISATION, WOMEN, THE DISABLED,
STAFFING, OFFICE ACCOMMODATION, MANAGEMENT TEAM

14. There are no specific implications under any of the above heading.

RECOMMENDATION

- (A) That the officers be authorised to proceed with the designation (under Section 277 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971) of the extension to the Stoke Newington Conservation Area as shown on Plan No. CA 10A as displayed at Committee.
- (B) That this report be referred to the Leisure Services Committee.

R.J. MICHAEL, HEAD OF PLANNING

David French, Lead Originator

21st February 1985

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