Dr Sally Marlow

* *Your name and address (there is no need to repeat your address if you have sent in written representations)*

*Sally Marlow, XXXX SW1P 3HP*

* *Whether you are representing anyone or any group (& authority to do so)*

*No, I am speaking on my own behalf*

* *Any qualifications you want recording*

*Dr Sally Marlow*

* *Whether you support or object to the proposed development*

*I object to the proposed development*

* *Are you happy to answer questions on your evidence? If so evidence likely to carry greater weight and may permit you to ask questions of opposing party*

*Yes I am happy to answer questions on my evidence*

* *Please remember that Inquiry time is both valuable and limited. It does not help the Inspector in considering his recommendation to hear the same points put by different parties on a repeated basis. This also assists in significantly reducing time used in representations, especially supported by written statements.*
* I am a local resident, and I have been conflicted about the development, seeing both sides of the debate.  I am also a healthcare researcher, based at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience at King’s College London, where my research focuses on mental health inequalities – in other words, I study the social and environmental factors that contribute to why some of us have better mental health than others.  I have been aware for some time of the overwhelming body of evidence that access to green space impacts community and individual mental health positively, particularly for those who are living in high density housing in urban areas. There is a wealth of research in this area, so much so that there have been several recent reviews bringing all the evidence together.  Two recent open access reviews can be found here [https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0160412016303099?via%3Dihub](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sciencedirect.com%2Fscience%2Farticle%2Fpii%2FS0160412016303099%3Fvia%253Dihub&data=02%7C01%7CHolocaustMemorial%40planninginspectorate.gov.uk%7C6577e207678f4fcd257908d86aa6a23a%7C5878df986f8848ab9322998ce557088d%7C1%7C0%7C637376611208926462&sdata=jtS1V4nOAHQ2psQvdqPzVmQPZSXKdcQAzX0pzFOOmV0%3D&reserved=0) and here [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6313536/](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov%2Fpmc%2Farticles%2FPMC6313536%2F&data=02%7C01%7CHolocaustMemorial%40planninginspectorate.gov.uk%7C6577e207678f4fcd257908d86aa6a23a%7C5878df986f8848ab9322998ce557088d%7C1%7C0%7C637376611208926462&sdata=kiKhXkk%2F2pe%2FjAYHoel%2BgeJfN%2BXXoJe1k9ItJxiRS4U%3D&reserved=0).    Those living in high density housing in urban areas are subject to other mental health inequalities linked to their housing, socio-economic status and ethnicity.  Since the Covid pandemic like many of my colleagues I have been conducting research into communities and their mental health during the pandemic and beyond.  It is clear to everyone working in mental health research that in the UK there is a second epidemic, that of poor mental health, which in many cases will develop into serious mental illness if it is not treated.  The communities which are suffering the most are also those who have the least access to resources to improve their situation.  Mental health services and treatments were already not sufficient to meet need before Covid struck, and the few services there were have been decimated by this pandemic, with clinics closing and many healthcare workers unable to provide a safe standard of care.  I have as a resident seen for myself how vital the park has been to the local community during the pandemic, and am in no doubt that the benefits for community and individual mental health are overwhelming, and have never been more needed.  It is this that has prompted me to speak out.  It is often forgotten that this part of Westminster has 4 social housing estates: Abbey Orchard, Page Street, Lillington Gardens and Millbank.   The people who live in these estates often do not have a voice in hearings like this, and I wanted to give evidence at this Inquiry to lay out how my neighbours will be affected.   As someone who is familiar with the evidence around mental health and green space, and mental health and inequalities, I have seen the evidence come to life in the park over the past six months of the pandemic.  I believe it is vital for the mental health of the local community that the park remains in its current form, with enough green space for all to use it.