

NOGOE

No to Greenwich Olympic Equestrian Events
17 City Business Centre, Lower Road, London SE16 2XB
www.nogoe2012.com

MEDIA RELEASE - 11 December 2009

NOGOE's first impressions of LOCOG's planning submission for Greenwich Park and Blackheath Circus Field.

Greenwich Park:

LOCOG's economy with the truth is never ending. Anyone reading the environmental impact assessment which accompanies its application for planning permission would realise that its plans are far from complete and that the public is expected to trust LOCOG not to make a mess of the Park. How confident should the public be about that?

Having previously talked about softening the ground through decompaction and reseeded, but not irrigation, although the question was asked, LOCOG now applies for permission to install an underground system - **6 kilometres of irrigation will mean a lot of water going into the Park, it will be particularly harmful to areas which are known to be rich in Roman archaeology, and it will leave lasting effects. Moreover they admit that the acid grasses won't recover till 2015.**

Having insisted that that there would be no damage to the Park, LOCOG now acknowledges in its planning application that the residual impact of the Games on **the cultural heritage of the Park could be slightly adverse** (contrary to all previous statements). It contemplates as a "last resort" investigation and preservation by record where no other mitigation is possible (**i.e. it is prepared to destroy rather than preserve if necessary**).

LOCOG is not to be trusted and the time has now come to tell Greenwich Council, as the planning authority, that the public objects.

John Hine, Joint Co-ordinator of NOGOE, said: **"From the application it appears that many of NOGOE's worst fears about the impact of the event have been realised. We will be strenuously opposing the application."**

Blackheath Circus Field:

Lionel Lewis, a local solicitor and supporter of NOGOE, is of the opinion that planning permission only sanctions a proposed use of the land. **It needs the owner to authorise it.** LOCOG should as part of their planning application have given notice to the owner (or its manager, London Borough of Greenwich). As they appear not to have been aware of the

Patrons:

**Dame Jennifer Jenkins, Blake Morrison, Dr David Starkey, Jonathan Sumption QC,
Margaret Tyzack OBE, Sir Willard White**

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Metropolitan Commons Act 1866, they are unlikely to have done so, in which case it could make the planning application void. Lionel Lewis adds, “LOCOG must be made to submit an application under the Metropolitan Commons Act 1866. Greenwich Council must then by statute refuse because the Act prohibits an “inclosure” of the heath or part of it, regardless of any planning permission they might grant.”

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