

Esteemed Mayor Brown, esteemed London Council Members,

My name is Lila Kari, our family lives at 56 Doncaster Place, near Medway Valley, and we want to express our strong opposition to any construction and development in the Medway Valley Heritage Forrest. I want to especially express our opposition to building any bridge or new Level 2 Trail in this area.

Medway Valley Heritage Forrest is unique in that it is not a park, but an undeveloped natural area. Any step to develop it will clearly be irreversible, and transform it in just another park, devoid of its current wildlife and of the unmistakable feel of a pristine forest. How many cities in the world can boast of having such a forest in the middle of the city?

London (unlike other cities, such as nearby Waterloo) is very fortunate in that it already has many parks where all its citizens can enjoy nature. Medway Valley Heritage Forest is different: It was handed down to us as an unique natural feature, and it differentiates us from other cities. I am very proud of this, and brag to all my foreign visitors about it - university professors visiting Western from as far as Russia, Japan, China, and Germany marvel that one can walk in a sizeable forest that is *inside* the city.

On behalf of our family, and of many other families in the neighbourhood (many of whom attended the Public Meeting on April 16, 2018), I am urging Mayor Brown and London Council to preserve, in the real sense of the word, Medway Valley Heritage Foorest for the generations of Londoners to come.

If I may, I also suggest a naming initiative, whereby people or groups of people can donate money to be used exclusively for the preservation and protection of Medway Valley Heritage Forrest in its current natural state. (A similar naming initiative in Waterloo attracted last week a donation to the city of more than 2.5 million dollars.)

People love nature and, if asked, will go to great lengths to protect what they love. You only have to ask us.

I thank you for your consideration, and have faith that the City Council of London will listen to its citizens.

Sincerely,

Lila Kari

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