

House of Lords  
MINUTES OF EVIDENCE  
taken before the  
UNOPPOSED BILL COMMITTEE  
on the

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City of London Corporation (Open Spaces)  
Bill

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Wednesday 13 December 2017

Before:

LORD MCFALL OF ALCLUITH, Senior Deputy Speaker, House of Lords  
JAMES COOPER, Counsel to the Chairman of Committees, House of  
Lords.

ALISON GORLOV, Winckworth Sherwood, Parliamentary Agent for the Bill

There also appeared:

PAUL DOUBLE, City of London, City Remembrancer and Parliamentary Agent

(12.08 pm)

1. **THE CHAIRMAN:** Good afternoon. I see you in another life, Paul; this is a new one for me. Welcome to the Unopposed Bill Committee. I am Lord McFall, the Senior Deputy Speaker, and on my right is James Cooper, my counsel. Mrs Gorlov, can I ask you to introduce yourself and your colleague and describe the Bill's main provisions?

2. **ALISON GORLOV:** I am the agent for the Bill, from Winckworth Sherwood, and with me I have Mr Double, the City Remembrancer. He is also the City of London Corporation's parliamentary agent, and he is here in both those capacities. We have with us the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath and the Superintendent of Epping Forest, in case there are coalface questions on which we need their support.

127. **THE CHAIRMAN:** So if someone at Epping Forest had an objection, they would go to the consultative committee, and that committee would talk to the superintendent?

128. **PAUL DOUBLE:** Yes, or they might go straight to the superintendent.

129. **THE CHAIRMAN:** But that is the extent of it?

130. **PAUL DOUBLE:** That is for Epping Forest. There is a similar consultative committee for Hampstead Heath, but that committee is actually statutory.

131. **THE CHAIRMAN:** It is a statutory consultative committee, but at the end of the day you do not need to take cognisance of it.

132. **PAUL DOUBLE:** The constitution of the committee requires the conservators to have regard to what the consultative committees say. That is the object of the exercise.

133. **THE CHAIRMAN:** But "having regard" means that you can take your own decision?

134. **PAUL DOUBLE:** It is not an absolute, but the practical realities are that you are operating locally in a local environment. So that I do not say anything untoward, I shall check with the superintendents.

135. I am reflecting what the superintendent has said to me: the statutory Hampstead Heath committee has been running since 1989 and, as the superintendent has said, there are no specific examples of a case where the consultative committee's views have not been reflected by the management committee.

136. **JAMES COOPER:** I would just like to say that having regard to something does not necessarily mean you have to follow what they have said.

137. **PAUL DOUBLE:** Yes, but the practical realities are as I have said.