

## Thieves steal wheels from luxury cars

Owners of luxury cars in Hampstead have been warned of a rise in the number of vehicle crime where thieves make off with their wheels. This follows an incident where a thief stole a C class Mercedes with a wheel missing and propped up on bricks in Prince Arthur Road on the morning of January 3.

The car's owner, who has not been named, told neighbours in an online forum that Not just the tyre was gone, but the entire wheel.

Thieves managed to do so by fully propping up the car on bricks in order to prevent the alarm and alarm from going off.

A Leamond-Criqui who chairs the Frogmal and Fitzjohns neighbourhood Panel said: "I am concerned about this crime, you may wish to consider getting hub caps with a lock on them. This is possible on most cars."

Police said they were called to the car on Prince Arthur Road after midday on January 3. A spokesman said: "There was other damage to the vehicle had been left on bricks." Police are with information on 101 quoting ref 16.

# Protest at scheme to build car park on designated nature site

## Petition against luxury homes development for Kings College campus

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Plans to turn a Grade II-listed Hampstead wildlife oasis into an underground car park and housing development have been described as "tragic" by protesters.

More than 200 people have signed a petition to halt the scheme on the former King's College site in Kidderpore Avenue.

The land currently houses five Grade II-listed buildings standing in two acres of green space and has been listed by Camden as a Grade II site of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINC).

Developer Mount Anvil has put in an application to Camden Council for 156 residential units with three four and five storey buildings and 10 town houses on the northern part of the former student residence which they bought in October 2014.

The listed buildings include Kidderpore Hall, a white Grecian-style building dating back to 1843, a 1928 classical chapel and a Summer House plus the Maynard Wing dat-



■ Protesters opposing the development

Picture: Nigel Sutton

ing back to 1889 and the Skeel Library. Under the plans, Mount Anvil intends to refurbish and extend some of these buildings to create luxury homes.

A two-storey basement car park with provision for 97 vehicles will

also be built.

This will involve felling mature trees from the site which contains a diverse natural habitat which attracts bats, birds and insects.

Chairman of the Redington Frogmal Association Rob Hagemans

said: "The proposed destruction of this green oasis is tragic. The loss of Redington Frogmal is a haven of biodiversity for the area; for example, it's on one of the last remaining flight paths for nocturnal bats."

Mount Anvil spoke said: "We have consulted extensively, working in collaboration with the council, local residents and community groups to develop a carefully considered, high-quality redevelopment plan. Our proposed redevelopment will see the sensitive restoration of several dilapidated Grade II-listed buildings, create much high-quality new homes and convert previously private garages into public use, ensuring a positive legacy for the whole area."

He said they plan to build a new pond and plant 25 new trees.

■ A demonstration against the scheme will take place tomorrow at 2pm in Kidderpore Avenue. A petition can be found at <http://redfrogmal.org/>.

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