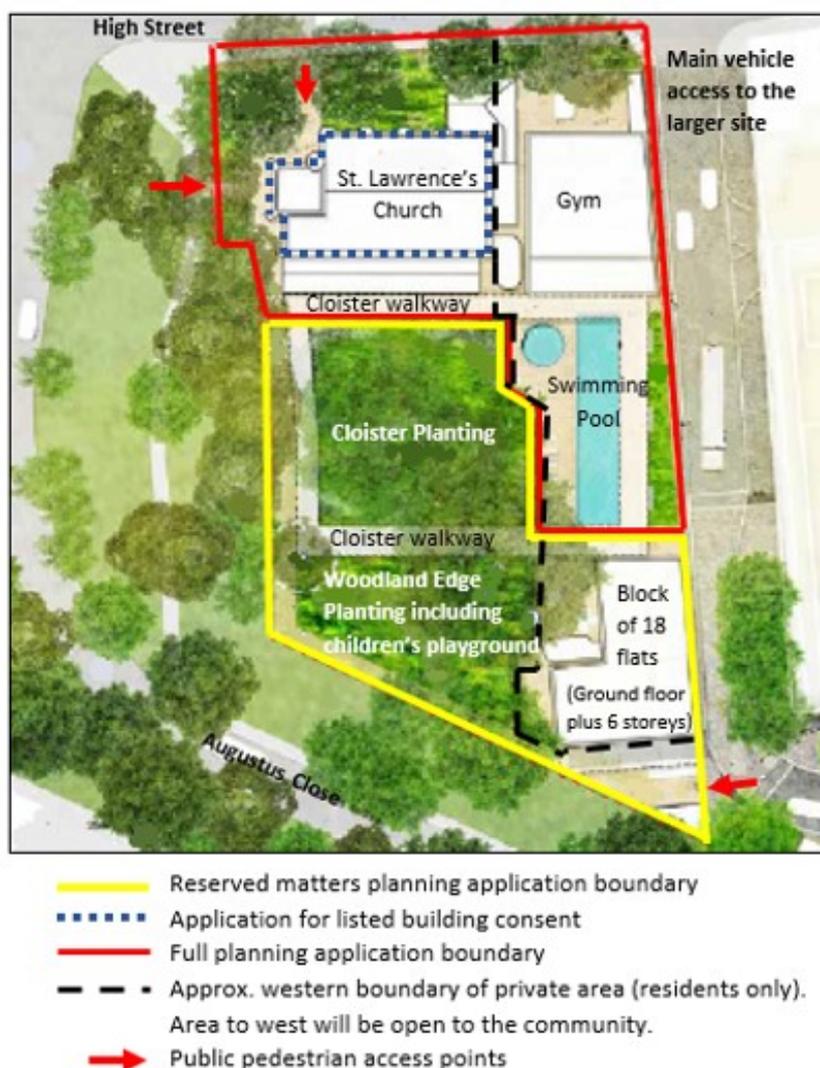


## St. Lawrence's Church and Burial Grounds

In March 2021, Hounslow Planning Committee resolved to permit three separate planning applications for St. Lawrence's (see diagram below). At the time of writing, a formal planning permission has been issued for one of these applications, for the block of 18 flats and landscaping of the remainder of the burial grounds. The remaining two applications have yet to be approved and we understand that they are subject to the finalisation of legal agreements. The two outstanding permissions involve listed building consent for the Church, change of use of the Church, the construction of a private swimming pool, and a private gym on the site of the old vicarage.



Brentford Voice submitted extensive comments on these three applications. We are delighted that:

- The Church will be open for use by all of our community, although the details of the uses have yet to be decided. You may recall that a previous proposal was

that the Church would be converted to a gym, for the exclusive use of Ballymore.

- The Grand Junction Water Company fountain that faces the High Street will remain in situ, rather than being moved to a location to the south of the Church.
- The Ronalds family tomb chest tomb will be retained in situ and remaining intact headstones from the churchyard will be incorporated within the landscape plan

Some other aspects of the proposals were very disappointing:

- The block of 18 flats, the demolition of the old vicarage, and the private swimming pool are not welcome. However, the principle of these aspects of the development had already been approved in 2015.
- The construction of the block of 18 flats requires the exhumation of the remains of about 850 individuals, including two Commonwealth War Graves.
- The manner in which the community has been kept informed on plans and progress for the exhumations has been extremely badly handled. Those who should have done much better in this respect include Ballymore and their archaeological consultants, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Historic England, the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government, and the Ministry of Justice.
- Despite representations to the contrary, Ballymore refuse to entertain any change to their energy strategy, which is based upon the use of gas-fired boilers.

Brentford Voice is pressing for the incorporation of new monuments within the landscaping proposals. These include monuments to the dead from the Battle of Brentford in 1642, to families of the bargees who plied their trade on the Grand Union Canal, and the two Commonwealth War Graves.

Within the Church itself, we will strive to return some of the magnificent monuments and memorials which were previously sold and loaned.

We will take a very keen interest in the development of Ballymore's plans for the community use of the Church.