

PLANNING APPLICATION PUBLIC COMMENT

Application number: PP/17/01637
Site Address: Site A (Portobello Green Arcade), Site C (Acklam Car Park) and Site D (Acklam Village), LONDON, W10 5TZ
Proposal: Mixed use development under and next to the Westway flyover to provide new arts, culture, enterprise, retail and affordable housing development, including:
Site A - refurbishment (including demolition) at for shops use Classes A1 and A3, and/or Class B1 business use; demolition of building accommodating market storage and outdoor advertising board,
Site C - erection of 4 storey building for Class A1 shops use and 13 x Class C3 dwelling houses, including change of use of private car park;
Site D - for Class A1 shops and/or Class B1 business use, and/or Class D1 non-residential institutions use; Class A4 drinking establishments and/or Class D1 non-residential institutions use, market facilities and associated new access from Acklam Road; public realm works, including demolition of existing planters and hoarding; retained use of public realm for market stalls and tables and chairs; new cycle parking; and other associated works (Major Development)

Comment received: I wish to state my stringent objection to the planned development of the Acklam road area, otherwise known as the "Portobello Scheme". As a born and bred Londoner, a resident of the borough for fifteen-years, and regular user of the site, I fail to comprehend the need to redevelop this area. The market is of huge value to the community, to London and to Britain. Its diversity and originality are second to none. The restaurants and cafes that trade in the space are independent-owned. As such, they have a stake in the community and support people and activities locally. I would like to take the opportunity here to point out that the Portobello road, having at one time been amongst the most exciting streets in London - attracting artists from across the world - is now a shadow of its former self. I believe the disregard for independent business and for the community that has been shown by developers on Portobello road is here again being reflected by The Westway Trust. We are all aware of the value of residential homes in Kensington and Chelsea. No more so that The Westway Trust board which, it is widely believed, comprises some individuals with strong ties to the property development community. May I remind you at this stage, that the Westway Trust was founded to support and nurture the local community. The "Portobello Scheme" amongst other actions by The Westway Trust, is serving to significantly erode faith in the Board's commitment to uphold these founding, charitable intentions.

In an area of commercial activity, I would also ask why residential units are being proposed. You will be aware from the actions of residents living close to The Tabernacle that noise pollution from

people having a good time outdoors leads to restrictions on people's ability to do so. If residential homes are built, it will herald the start of restrictions being put on the market: for set-up and take-down noise, people gathering in the park to drum, live music activities in the park, Dougie's record store and other sources of entirely legitimate sound, which add abundantly to the attraction of the area.

I am also astonished that space for market traders to store products is under threat. This leads me to ask what the Westway Trust envisions for this space. Do they want yet another shopping centre, of the kind we see at Westfield, on High Street Kensington and increasingly on high streets the length and breadth of Britain? Are we to sweep away artists and traders with character, independence and attraction to locals, Londoners and tourists from abroad, and replace them with corporations, many of which shirk their tax duties to this country and almost never get involved in activities that benefit the local community? It leaves one asking: do the Board members of the Westway Trust care about this country at all?

Markets are part of British history and British tradition. The cultural space that has grown up around the Acklam Road market is testament to our rich, diverse and creative society, the hallmark of our freedom. Destroying this for commercial gain is not only a lamentable dereliction of duty, it is an attack on the values that have made this city and this country great. I urge you to withdraw this application and leave the site in its current form.

Sent by: Alice Bragg

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Comment type: Objection