

PLANNING APPLICATION PUBLIC COMMENT

Application number: PP/18/05313
Site Address: Heythrop College, 23-24 Kensington Square, LONDON, W8 5HH
Proposal: Reinstatement of three townhouses (Class C3), (part of 23 and 24 Kensington Square); refurbishment of college building (part of 23 Kensington Square) and use as an extra care facility (Class C2). Demolition of all other buildings on site. Erection of deck over adjacent London Underground line and construction of 5 buildings (ranging between 1 and 8 storeys in height) for use as an extra care facility including units, communal facilities and services areas, community hall and on-site affordable housing and associated access parking, servicing and landscaping. (MAJOR DEVELOPMENT)

Comment received: My principal objection to the proposed development of the Heythrop site is FAILURE OF THE SCHEME TO COMPLY WITH THE SOCIAL & COMMUNITY USE RESTRICTIONS THAT APPLY TO THIS VERY SPECIAL SITE, The extra-care label for this Care Home masks the reality that the company is targeting buyers of 'Ultra High New Worth' and the cost of the care will be way beyond the reach of even the well off long term residents of our community, let alone the many working people who serve our borough so well. THERE IS NO PROVEN NEED FOR THIS TYPE OF SUPER-LUXURY ACCOMODATION, as is demonstrated by the adjustments in price the company is having to put in place on their Dovehouse Street site; likewise, the dark and empty windows of the flats on 1, Kensington Road, demonstrate that the development has gone nowhere to address the housing shortage that is so evident in London, but merely to increase the capital wealth of the super rich. The only vehicular access to the site is along St. Alban's Grove and into South End, a route which is wholly unsuited to taking the amount of heavy traffic that the development of a project like this demands. I THEREFORE STRONGLY OBJECT TO THE DEVELOPMENT ON THE GROUNDS OF SIZE. It puts in danger the foundations of the properties along the route and will be profoundly disturbing for residents of St. Alban's Grove and South End for at least four years. This route is also regularly used by infants from Thomas's School who have no option but to walk along this end of St. Alban's Grove to access their classrooms.

I live in St. Alban's Studios, on the tight corner where the lorries will be turning into South End on their way to the site, and as landlord I REPRESENT NINE TENANTS, SEVERAL OF WHOM WORK FROM HOME, and whose lives will be blighted by this prolonged disruption. I am also concerned that vibrations of the heavy traffic will undermine the Studios themselves: one of Kensington's most characterful properties.

Date of Comment: 04/10/2018 10:45:50

Comment type:

Objection