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: I am strongly protesting against the Heythorp for the following
                      reasons:

                      Air Pollution:
                      I have a son with life threatening allergies which are exacerbated by
                      poor air quality. He will have to endure 5 years worth of extra traffic
                      (60 large trucks a day) in the tiny streets around our property which
                      could be detrimental to his health. This is backed up key Pediatric
                      Allergy Consultants and should not be taken lightly. Please note that
                      Kings College London has already deemed our direct area at the top
                      of Kensington Court and Young street as one of the worst areas for
                      air pollution in London. There is a reason more children are suffering
                      these distressing afflictions and the lack of control on traffic is not
                      helping the problem, as consistently reported in the press. We need
                      to protect our children and NOT exploit them to line the pockets of
                      wealthy developers.

                      Nature of the development:
                      I understand they wish to demolish part of a listed building. This sets
                      a very dangerous precedent in an area where developers are
                      constantly transforming our landscape for their own financial gain.
                      Furthermore it does not make sense to have more expensive flats
                      for sale in an area where we have so many empty luxury
                      apartments lying vacant for overseas buyers. The developers are
                      trying to slip it in under the pretext it is going to provide social and
                      community benefit but realistically how is a development that is
                      described by the developers as `a retirement property equivalent of
                      Claridges' benefitting the more needy members of our community?
                      It is farcical to even suggest such a thing. By suggesting it is a care
                      home (which has connotations of affordability for needy residents)
                      they escape having to provide affordable housing. This is against
                      the council planning policy. Why are we even having to contest this?
                      In fact we are loosing valuable community assets such as the
                      Dyslexia Teaching Centre, the College, the Nursery and student

accommodation.

Size of development:
The size is going to be three times the existing buildings. This will render it one of the largest housing projects in the borough and this large increase in residential units aimed at Ultra High Net Worth individuals. Therefore it does not align to the council's stated aim of preserving low value community uses. Any planned development should be in line with the site's current size and current target segment of the community.

Community:
The numerous developments targeted at the very wealthy that have and are being erected around Kensington are eroding the community in which we live. Another faceless development with the purpose of making a lot of money does not add anything to our community, in tact they drive people away and render areas more like ghost towns.

Traffic:
The erection of the development will negatively affect residents with an accumulation of traffic. Please note some of the proposed main access points, utilise our roads which are narrow and are not designed for large vehicles. In addition our access to the High street is via Young Street. We have just endured a lengthy development on that road (most of the units appear to be empty) and to give developers the go ahead will make the traffic even worse for a very long period of time.

Date of Comment: 10/10/2018 22:09:38
Comment type: Objection