

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 object most strongly to the proposed development of Heythrop College, for a number of reasons, the most important being Change of Use from an educational college & hall of residence to 140 super expensive luxury retirement homes. The Council has a stated policy to retain social and community uses in order to prevent just this sort of development. The proposed building is totally out of scale and the resulting disruption to streets in the surrounding area is unacceptable. South End is completely unsuitable to provide an entrance both for construction traffic and - ultimately - as the main entrance for the development. In no way can it be called an extra 'care home' for local residents and I am shocked that the Council, after their response to the Grenfell tower disaster, are even entertaining granting permission for this development that allows the developer exemption from providing ANY affordable housing by claiming it's a real care home. If any redevelopment takes place, it should come under the same category as the current building - too much of the borough is blighted by extremely expensive flats being bought by wealthy individuals (mainly from overseas) that are left empty (as in De Vere Gardens/Victoria Road) with a detrimental knock on effect to the local community.

Date of Comment: 10/10/2018 12:42:15
Comment type: Objection