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: This proposed development is thinly disguised as a "care home" it is very likely that it will become an almost empty development such as the recently completed apartments on Victoria Rd. It is these types of empty "investment properties" that enrage homeless people and other residents of the borough.
The proposed apartments will have a very expensive 1 year lease and hugely expensive service charges more likely to appeal to wealthy overseas buyers looking to invest in the London property market than local pensioners (even those of " ultra high net worth".
Following the Grenfell disaster and the lack of social housing available in the borough that it has highlighted, it is morally repugnant that this proposed development should attempt to avoid the responsibility of providing such by disguising the development as a care facility.
Such a huge development will substantially change the ethos of this area of Kensington... I understand that it is proposed to be 3 x the current floor space of Heythrop college and hall of residence. This is completely unacceptable... the development must be at much smaller than that proposed.
Finally, surely putting a "deck" over TFL rail lines should require planning permission?
Date of Comment: 15/10/2018 11:59:10
Comment type: Objection