

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: HEYTHROP DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION: PP/18/05313 & LB/18/05314

OBJECTION OF KENSINGTON COURT MANSIONS

Our building (which comprises 36 flats) is part of the Kensington Court Conservation Area, which has views towards Kensington Square for the top floor flats. We are also members as a building and individually of the Kensington Court Residents Association (KCRA), AND SUPPORT IN FULL THE SUBMISSION MADE BY ITS CHAIRMAN

We wish to make the following points:-

1. Heythrop is part of and contiguous to the Kensington Square, de Vere and Kensington Court conservation areas. Any new building should be in keeping with the character and within the spirit of tranquility and history that this area exemplifies. Kensington Square itself is surrounded by several 17th and 18th century single dwellings of some 5 levels including the basement on its southern and eastern side dating back to the village. The construction of yet more blocks in this beautiful and peaceful area is an affront to the integrity of this area. Must we repeat the mistakes that led to the construction of The Royal Garden Hotel, the PC World/Curry's store, the Holiday Inn Hotel, the Copthorne Tara Hotel?
2. This area of Kensington has already suffered from disturbances as a result of No.1 Kensington and the Young Street developments, and the coming redevelopment taking place in Kensington Court. To have 4 years of works with 24,000 lorry coming and goings for what is a pointless project (yet more luxury flats behind the social housing fig-leaf) does not strike as very sensible.
3. Such a huge development as Heythrop providing yet more luxury

flats (with rents ranging from £100,000 to £280,000 per annum) to an area, a city which surely does not need any more, is pointless.

The borough has been thinking about how to re-invigorate the High Street and think in terms of the pretty successful Design Museum area of Holland Park as a blueprint - open spaces, beautiful buildings, and, why not, exceptional retail spaces more adapted to today's Amazon disrupted world. People have to want to come to Kensington - Heythrop will not do it!

Please use this opportunity to think about how best to enhance the Kensington High Street area, which this "monstrous carbuncle on the face of a much loved and elegant friend", to quote Prince Charles, has zero chance of doing!

Date of Comment: Chair, Kensington Court Mansions
Comment type: 15/10/2018 22:20:29
Objection