

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 dismayed to see the current planning application for the Heythrop site. My reasons for objecting to it are as follows:

The developers claim that this site is for social and community use; this is a ploy to get permission to build. Only wealthy pensioners will be able to afford these flats. Some will be sold for up to £7 million and the rest will be rented on very large yearly leases which are unaffordable and do not cater for the residents who really do need social housing. Furthermore they wish to convert buildings on either side of the house back into houses and sell them for extortionate sums of money. These currently have important social use being used by students and a nursery - how exactly are building these homes more important than the benefits the nursery and the college bring to our local community?

Moreover the level of disruption to the local community is appalling. Four years of substantially increased traffic, passing a school where we have children with asthma and allergies creating dangerous levels of air pollution, not to mention local residents who suffer the same afflictions. The statistics of deaths within London due to air pollution are terrifying. How can we justify increasing air pollution in a borough that is one of the two worst offenders in the whole country?!! How does this development fall in line with air pollution policies such as the RBKC's? Thousands of journeys by HGV's in an area which is normally relatively free of HGV's is only going to bring levels up rendering the area more unsafe than it already is. This is not on! Doesn't people's health matter more than lining the pockets of greedy developers?

The access to the site is very near my property. How on earth can the tiny area around South End cater for all these lorries? The answer is that it can't but somehow it will be forced to accommodate all this extra traffic to the detriment of everyone living around the area, making it a louder, more unsafe, and a more

polluted enclave. I have been proud of this little corner of Kensington but this proposed development will scratch a line through it's identity for nothing other than creating more wealth for those that are already exceptionally wealthy. There are little to no benefits for the needy in our community and the increased size of the proposed development is not suitable for this area.

The council should not be putting the needs of the wealthy before those of the more needy, especially in light of the terrible tragedy our borough has suffered with Grenfell. There are so many uses for the Heythrop site that could genuinely enrich our residents lives. This proposed development is only going to further promote the needs of the wealthy above and beyond the needs of our more needy residents and therefore in light of all of this I ask the council to refuse permission.

Date of Comment: 16/10/2018 10:11:01
Comment type: Objection