

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 hereby share my absolute objection to the Heythrop project. The expensive properties proposed here will destroy our already fragile local community in order to give real estate developers and ultra high net worth investors a financial return. One Kensington Gardens on Victoria Road, not far from the same location, has targeted high net worth buyers and as can be seen today, years after completion of the project, the building appears mostly vacant, with most apartments being kept dark in the evenings. The planned 5-year construction will be a nightmare with very limited access via the same street as the local school and kindergarten. Already today, when parents pick up and drop off their kids in the school it is challenging to navigate through the streets from or to the main roads. Adding trucks to the equation will not only congest the neighborhood to a catastrophic level but also put at risk the safety of our kids and pets. Finally, if the goal of policy CK1 is to seek to preserve low-value social & community uses in the development project, then this project seems to do everything against such a policy, while, at the same time, benefitting from a financial subsidy at the guise of a social & community development. I kindly request to stop this development and recommend to the developers to work with the local community in order to find a suitable use and property development plan which will have everyone: the developers, buyers, the council and the local community win.

Date of Comment: 17/10/2018 08:22:44
Comment type: Objection