

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: As the Chairman of a block of 16 mansion flats on the east side of De Vere Gardens whose residents endured - without compensation - 4 years of noise, disruption, vibrations, dust and huge inconvenience not to mention infestations of mice and pigeons while the demolition and rebuilding of the so-called McAlpine site took place on the west side, I am writing to register the strongest possible objection to this application. The site alone, in a remote corner of the most historic square in the Borough, not to mention in London, means that truck access proposed through through South End will be a continuing nightmare for everyone on Victoria Road and its adjoining small streets and for St Albans Grove for an estimated 5 years.

The developer's proposal - as we understand it - is to construct a building that has a building mass which is more than 3 times the present buildings which will make it one of the largest housing projects in the Borough: it involves 140 high-end, luxury, so-called retirement homes which means that it will be an invitation to overseas' investors to park their money safely. We have seen that in De Vere Gardens where the lights remain out and the few Flats sold - I have been informed about a 40% take-up so far - show irregular signs of regular occupancy. Such owners who do visit add very little to the local economy by spending in nearby shops (the increasing closures of shops at the north end of Gloucester Road testify to this).

If this application is granted I submit that it will be another nail in the coffin of our local community.

I urge you to recommend refusal.

Chairman
Seventeen De Gardens (Management) Limited

Date of Comment: 19/10/2018
Comment type: Objection