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: Approving this application would be in clear contravention of the
                      Council's policy that "social and community uses" should be
                      protected and retained, to protect low-value uses from high-value
                      uses, such as residential.

                      This proposal if for high value residential units overtly aimed at the
                      high end of the market. The on-site "extra-care" provided does not
                      make this the equivalent of a care-home, and should not be used to
                      avoid the obligations of developing a designated "social and
                      community use" site, which include building affordable housing.

                      The proposed development has no value to the majority community
                      of the Borough, and the Council must recognise this. Even if it
                      somehow manages to comply with the letter of the law on this, it
                      most certainly is nowhere near the spirit of it.

                      The Council must not allow further expansion of the already large
                      stock of very high value properties, most of which are unoccupied
                      and drain our communities of life as well as squandering valuable
                      space.

                      The proposed development would have its main entrance via a
                      network of tiny streets, which are completely unsuitable for access
                      other than in the smallest volumes. The construction traffic involved
                      in the actual build would pose a very serious problem indeed.
Date of Comment: 24/10/2018 14:15:15
Comment type: Objection