

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: Dear Committee
We are residents at flat 3 , 24 Kensington Court, W8 5DP. We are writing to oppose the Heythrop development. We are strongly opposed to the current plans due to a number of important reasons which we hope will be taken into account by the planning authorities to deny planning permission. The issues which are the cause of our objection are the following:

- The proposed flats will be of an ultra high value and so not for members of a real community but will result in only very wealthy owners, excluding families or retired couples and leading to foreign investors leaving the flats empty most of the time.
- This goes directly against the proposal of including low cost social and community use.
- This will impoverish our local community by making the streets dark at night with empty flats and take away the normal flow of residents with whom we share our daily lives
- The 5 year period during construction of such a massive project is not acceptable to those of us who need to park walk and drive in our small neighbourhood streets. It will destroy the tranquillity of our neighbourhood for an amount of time that is not acceptable. We can all put up with a neighbour having work done for a few months, but 5 years is simply too much of an intrusion into our daily quality of life with noise, traffic,, congestion, disruption etc.
- Small roads such as Victoria Rd , St Albans grove etc are just not meant for lorry traffic. Could you please a walk down any of these small roads to see if you can imagine the nightmare of having lorries driving back and forth down these residential roads; not to mention turning around corners where they will undoubtedly get stuck and strike local cars or mount the small pavements

endangering children from the local primary school

- It is unacceptable that there should be a financial subsidy for housing which will not be for affordable housing. Why should luxury flats receive subsidies ? The " Extra Care " mentioned as a care home is only a cover for expensive luxury homes , not a real care home where your or my granny could afford to live.

- Regarding the one year lease option, this may give place to medical tourism when people sign up to a lease in the UK for medical tourism purposes

- Why does this project need to be so big ? It will triple the current housing space in housing of the wrong kind. It should be redimensioned in a much smaller scale, in tune and sympathetic with the local neighbourhood which is a pearl of London for residents and visitors alike.

- The deck over the rail lines should not be sneaked into this planning permission. It should be on a separate application to consider all the long term consequences of such a plan.

These are just the tip of the iceberg of the reasons to oppose this terrible plan. Please could you deny permission and propose something smaller perhaps just use the existing buildings to house flats as they are today reconfiguring the inside but leaving the rest as it is ?

Date of Comment:

Comment type:

Thank you for considering this letter

25/10/2018 12:20:39

Objection