

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: To whom it may concern:

I understand that I can't object to the above development on the grounds of 5-years of disruption to thousands of local residents nor on the grounds that like many overly-ambitious projects the financing may not be secure. However, I feel I must object on the grounds that this project will increase further the supply of empty luxury properties. Even without formal statistics it's evident that Kensington is becoming a millionaires' ghost town; Many of the luxury developments have many unsold properties and those that have been sold are left empty by foreign buyers.

The lack of continual inhabitation in luxury flats throughout the southern area of the borough (except for a short period during the year, perhaps) has a knock-on effect. The area is becoming socially unbalanced---those on middle, much less lower, incomes are being priced out of the area, Kensington High Street shows the effect---more and more shops are closing leaving residents who do not shop online without choice. This can create a downward spiral in a neighbourhood with all its negative effects.

The Heythrop site has in the past contributed to the public good by hosting numerous visiting groups who have contributed to the economic well-being of the area....the development of Heythrop along the lines planned will reverse this with all the negative social effects .

The site offers a unique opportunity for the Council to encourage a mixed use of the area which would benefit all socio-economic groups in the local area. The present development does nothing to improve the social mix of groups in Kensington.

Date of Comment: 26/10/2018
Comment type: Objection

