

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 am writing as a resident of Kensington Square to support the application to redevelop Heythrop College as an extra care home.

Sadly, the Jesuits decided to shut the College and despite, as they communicated to residents, a long process where they tried to attract other universities, there was no interested university willing to take over the site, leaving the site to open markets. The residents, realising the opportunities offered but also risks to our quiet residential community of Kensington Square, worked with the council since 2015 to shape the SPD document, which would protect the site from intensification of us.

We were relieved to see a developer planning a sympathetic use inline with current use and not a secondary school and were also happy that the developer held 3 exhibitions taking on our feedback and improving the project. In particular we were very concerned about damage to the listed buildings and any alteration to the frontages of Kensington Square and possible openings of new roads that would increase traffic on the square. We worked with KSRA, our residents association and support in full their submission, as we feel the current scheme will provide a benefit to the community. RBKC should carefully weigh its policy of having open access against the desires and needs of both the developer and the residents that live right next to Heythrop to have controlled access closed at night-time. It may be a nice theoretical idea to have open access at all times, but this is private land after all and RBKC should not be dictating its access at nighttime unless it is willing to police it. Sadly, as residents, we have often called the Enforcement team with issue on Kensington Square as they happen, only for them to never show up or show up too late. As such, RBKC should not push for a permanent open path but allow the developer to close it at night as per their application. The gardens will be open and accessible to all during the daytime, but in the same way that Hyde Park closes at night, this private park

should also close.

We also very much welcome the return of the 3 houses that face Kensington Square to their historical full residential use, as this will further strengthen our residential community on the square.

Finally, we recognise that a CTMP will have to be agreed and hope the developer will continue to engage positively with residents on this and also work with us to ensure they put together an appropriate plan for residents to have use of the community hall.

We urge the committee to approve this application

Date of Comment:

19/10/2018 16:54:17

Comment type:

Support