

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: Let me express my personal SUPPORT of the proposed redevelopment of Heythrop College (application reference PP/18/05313) and this support is in-line with the representation submitted by the Kensington Square Residents Association (KSRA).

As a close neighbour to Heythrop, I took a long-term view in assessing this project. We, of course need to better assess the Traffic Management Plan, but such constraints (and inevitable nuisances) are nothing if we put them in prospective with getting a long-term project detrimental to the community. Note that we, residents of the square have just been affected by three years of construction on Young Street and we would now like to see Heythrop being brought to conclusion in order to stabilise the whole area once and for all in a not too distant future.

I just want to stress that the developer did consult at length with the neighbours of ALL the communities, and he has made substantial positive changes to the original projects, reducing it very significantly to limit the construction nuisances. Of course more can be obtained as ever but the fundamentals are correct and absolutely in line with the SPD, absolutely in line with English Heritage and also take into account the long-term safety and living conditions of the residents in the immediate vicinity of the site. I believe that such neighbours should have a strong vote in the decision, as opposed to more distant residents who will never have to bear with the long-term impact of a poorly designed project.

I also feel that the covering of the rail tracks is long over due and is a huge benefit as will the extra care facilities and the contribution to the modernisation of the Tube Station. These are very important features that will be to the benefit of a wider group. The return to residential use of three houses of the square should be commanded as it will reinforce the unique historical value of the

square.

This is a life time issue. Hence the strong support most of us on the square, and I personally, have expressed.

Date of Comment:
Comment type:

Thank you for taking this support into account
26/10/2018
Support