

17 July 2023

Dear Obote Hope

Bedford Estates - Green Wall, Store Street - 2023/2410/P & 2023/2688/L

I live in Bloomsbury not far from this wall and would like to comment on this Planning Application in my capacity as local resident. I am not in favour of the green wall.

(1) I am very appreciative of what the Bedford Estates do to maintain the heritage character of Bloomsbury with its classic architecture, green spaces and trees. So I am disappointed by what I see as insensitive plans for this wall. I believe that an urban-style, bolt-on, green wall – in two sections divided by an oversized notice - will look gimmicky, plastic and out of place, break up the continuity of the wall, and destroy its period appeal. I believe that the funds would be better spent on planting and maintaining trees and plants in the garden of 15a Gower Street.

(2) I can see that the wall in question is in need of some attention. See Photo 1. But would argue that what it needs is repair and conservation to bring it up to the Bedford Estates' normal high standards. See Photo 2 on the next page showing the Bedford Estates' own office door in Montague Street.





(3) I am worried about the brickwork of the wall and fear that constant dampness on its Southern side might in time be bad for the preservation of such an old structure.

(4) The pavement is exceptionally narrow at the point in the wall where the green wall is proposed to be put. This is because of a lamp-post, a London Plane and a bike stand which all take up footpath space. I imagine that the fronds of the planting will extend beyond the formal dimensions of the green wall, making this narrow defile even narrower for pedestrians.

In conclusion, I think the Bedford Estates are right in thinking that this wall in Store Street needs some attention. I do not believe that adding two sections of 'green wall' and an oversized notice to it is the kind of attention it needs.

I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this e-mail.

Many thanks.
Sandra Wheen,