

**EGYPT EXPLORATION SOCIETY,
2 – 4 DOUGHTY MEWS, BLOOMSBURY,
LONDON, WC1N 2PG**

STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

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July 2023

Ref: 1096

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Statement of Community Involvement has been prepared by NTA Planning LLP on behalf of the Egypt Exploration Society (EES) (the **Applicant**), proprietor of nos. 2 – 4 Doughty Mews, Bloomsbury, London, WC1N 2PG (the application **Site**).
- 1.2 Since its founding, 140 years ago, the Egypt Exploration Society has supported and promoted Egyptian cultural heritage – exploring more than 150 sites and monuments, publishing more than 350 volumes of scientific research, and engaging with thousands of people across the world. Now they are preparing the EES for its next milestone by taking advantage of the need to make their London premises more accessible for their members and the public, opening up their collections, staging events and exhibitions, and welcoming everyone and anyone with an interest in learning more about Egypt's unique cultural heritage.
- 1.3 The Site currently comprises three 2-storey adjoining mews houses and accommodates the EES over ground and part first floor, together with a self-contained flat which occupies the remainder of the first-floor level. The Society moved into this location in 1968 and since this time has provided grants to research projects around the world and communicated the results of this work to almost 2,000 international members through publications and events. The London headquarters includes a publicly accessible library of almost 20,000 volumes, one of the largest such collections in the UK, as well as a unique archive documenting the history of British archaeology in Egypt since 1882. This precious collection includes some of the only known records of sites now lost in Egypt and northern Sudan and constitutes an internationally important record of world heritage.
- 1.4 However, the current property is unfit for the Society's future vision. It is inaccessible to supporters and requires substantial modernisation to make it safe for the Society's collections, as well as staff and visitors. Therefore, the Society is embarking on an ambitious vision for its future as an inclusive hub for exploring Egyptian cultural heritage in central London.
- 1.5 It is proposed to refurbish and extend the Site through an additional floor with a roof garden terrace, providing much needed outdoor amenity space for the EES staff, and the residential unit. Through the refurbishment of the buildings, it is sought to create 'fit for use' spaces for the functions of the EES, including office space, library, and bookstore and meeting room, with the residential unit more clearly and operationally separated.
- 1.6 The Egypt Exploration Society have engaged with the public during the preparation of the proposed development. A letter was sent out to local residents on the 11th November 2022. (See Appendix 1). Two public consultations were held, the first on the 7th December 2022 which was open to the general public. A second consultation was held on 18th January 2023 which was open to Members of the EES. We provide a summary of the events below.

2.0 FIRST CONSULTATION

2.1 The first consultation took place on 7th December 2022, and was open to the public. The event consisted of an introductory speech from one of the Governors of the EES and a presentation from the project Architects (Studio Becoming) showing the proposed scheme. The comments received from the public were;

- The public do not want the rear Plane trees removed (it was explained that this has already been consented and is not forming part of this works)
- The public issued concerns over late night events held on the proposed roof terrace. It was clarified this would not happen and a curfew for events on the roof terrace would prevent this.
- The public liked the front ground floor fin details and fenestration.
- They liked the fact that everything would be fully accessible.
- The neighbours at no.1 Doughty Mews were pleased that the massing of the second-floor roof extension matched their own roof extension massing and the set back.
- They liked that the EES would remain within Doughty Mews and the Bloomsbury area.
- There were concerns for the sitting tenant, as he is a much-liked figure within the local community. It was made clear that separate discussions have been had with the tenant and he will be housed within the local area while the works are on-going.

3.0 SECOND CONSULTATION

3.1 A second consultation took place on the 18th January 2023, open to members of the EES. Again, a speech was given by the EES Director and then the project Architects presented the proposed scheme. The comments received were as follows;

- Members really liked the fact that all floors will be fully accessible.
- Members loved that the Papyri store would be moving to London once the proposed development is complete.
- Members really liked the idea of a new members lounge on the second floor.
- Members loved the idea of the multi-use space on the ground floor for events and exhibitions.
- Members really liked the idea of the roof terrace as a place for education as well as a peaceful place to catchup with other members.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 To conclude, the scheme was very well received by both the public and the EES members. The only adverse aspect raised by the public was the removal of the rear Plane trees. However, these works have already been consented due to the structural damage they are causing to the host building, and do not form part of this application.

APPENDIX ONE
RESIDENT CONSULTATION LETTER

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11th November 2022

Dear Neighbour,

I hope that this letter finds you well. I am writing to invite you to an evening of mulled wine and mince pies at the Egypt Exploration Society in Doughty Mews. This is an opportunity to hear from us and our appointed architect, Rory at Studio Becoming, about the exciting plans to transform our premises over the next three years.

We have been operating from the Mews since 1968 and are committed to staying here and providing a valuable social space for those interested to come along and discover Egypt's fascinating cultural heritage. Our long history of 140 years exploring sites and monuments in the Nile valley means that our collections are the cornerstone of British Egyptology. If you've been to the British Museum or the Petrie Museum, then you've seen artefacts uncovered by our archaeologists. So please, come along to hear about our important work and how our transformation will change the ways in which we can deliver our mission in your community.

When: Wednesday 7th December, 17:30-19:30 (presentations at 18:00)
Where: The Egypt Exploration Society, 3 Doughty Mews, London, WC1N 2PG
RSVP with your full name and address to Carl Graves (carl.graves@ees.ac.uk)

I look forward to seeing you there.

Yours sincerely

Dr Carl Graves
Director

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