

From: Ros Juma
Sent: 22 July 2023 16:38
To: Planning
Subject: 2023/2510/P and 2023/2510/L

Dear Sirs

As a long standing Camden resident and frequent visitor to the British Museum and surrounding areas, I am writing to express my strong objections to the proposals to redevelop Selkirk House to a 250,000 sq feet office space. The height would be 76 metres. I think this would be overbearing and out of proportion with the surrounding buildings, many of which are attractive period terraces which epitomise the character of Bloomsbury. Such a building would block light from any adjacent properties and decrease quality of life for residents in the area. I urge the planning committee to consider the needs of local residents and businesses over and above a potential new development. The current appearance and facilities, such as the British Museum and garden squares, pleasant walking areas and interesting small independent shops will be eroded by both ongoing construction work and the changed character and appearance of the finished building. Potential income from the Community Infrastructure levy is, despite the harsh current economic climate, not worth the long term price to be paid by the local community. Lateral thinking towards other income streams, based for instance upon the Local Multiplier (3) factor is a more grounded way to nourish the local community.

I have, like many local people, witnessed with dismay the destructive effects towards local communities around Drummond Street and Hampstead Road by mass poorly conceived development relating to the HS2. Also the loss of valued green open space in Somers Town for the construction of a tower block, with very questionable benefits to the community.

I would like to think that the planning committee have the concerns and interests of the local Camden community closest to their hearts.

I look forward to your comments.

Kind regards

Rosalind Juma