

From: Gillian Darley
Sent: 06 August 2023 10:56
To: David Fowler
Subject: Application 2023/2510/P; 2023/2653L

Dear Camden planners,

I am hoping that an email I just composed has arrived with you, but it seems to have been unrecorded at this end. (A glitch on my system?). So, I am sending this, quickly and briefly to register my objection and, more, my fierce hope that the eventual development will accommodate the current situation and reality.

Late as it is in the process, I wanted to reiterate my views which should be on record with your office from the previous application (2020?). I am aware of the various alterations that have been made, to height, to the retention of some of the surrounding streetscape and buildings within that, and to the exact provision of social housing. However I feel that the situation is so diametrically changed by the M&S decision that the only course is to rethink the future for the site in the light of the current arguments and urgent rethinking of the boundaries of environmental sustainability.

I am a local resident (since 1986) and acutely aware of the particular quality of this corner of Holborn as it adjoins the West End. Anyone who has, as I have, recently enjoyed the views from the roof of the Post Building can see it for themselves - St George's Bloomsbury, the British Museum complex as well as the grid of streets (so nearly lost in the 1960s for the British Library proposals of distant memory).

The strength of opposition and the quality of the arguments being presented speak for themselves. I can only offer the perspective of a Holborn resident, and that of an historian and conservationist (former SPAB Chair and C20 Society President), and an activist in the early days with SAVE, the organisation which has so far advanced the argument about the value of existing buildings (even unlisted ones) that the rules of engagement have been entirely altered.

with best wishes,

Gillian Darley OBE, Hon FRIBA