

From: Rebecca Lloyd-Jones
Sent: 07 August 2023 17:10
To: Planning
Cc: David Fowler; Save Museum Street
Subject: Fw: Your ref: 2023/2510/P and 2023/2653/L

Dear Sir or Madam

I write to register an objection to the above planning application, relating to the proposed re-development at Selkirk House, Museum Street. As a London resident, and frequent visitor to the historic area around the British Museum, I object to the application in the strongest terms as follows:

1. The proposed tower is 18 stories high. This is far too high, being out of all proportion to the surrounding listed buildings. It would dominate the surrounding historic buildings and skyline, and its design is entirely out of sympathy with the local historic areas of Covent Garden, Bloomsbury and SoHo.
2. The development would not enhance the conversation area, and indeed, the plans include the demolition of historic buildings (including a 19th century stables). This is against the principal that new buildings should enhance the conversation area, and not be detrimental to it.
3. Importantly, the erection of a tower of this scale would have a very significant environmental impact. Its construction would involve a substantial carbon impact, given the materials and degree of construction involved. And once built, the tower's usage would of course involve yet further carbon impact for the future. This is wholly inconsistent with the climate change policies of both national and local government, at a time when the climate emergency is ever more evident.
4. The demolition and building process would have a negative impact on local air quality, when London's air is already in breach of WHO guidelines.
5. The proposed accommodation is poorly designed, and insufficient given the housing shortage in London. Again, the proposals do not appear to be environmentally orientated towards helping residents achieve carbon net zero.

Any re-development needs to be significantly smaller in scale, and in keeping with the surrounding listed buildings. This is an iconic area of London, and it needs to be made more attractive to them, not less. London is already plagued by inappropriate and unsympathetic towers, and it does not need yet another!

Rebecca Lloyd-Jones