

From: Sue Cole  
Sent: 08 August 2023 19:17  
To: Planning  
Cc: David Fowler  
Subject: Objection to planning reference 2023/2510/P and 2023/2653/L

I wish to object to the above planning applications. The revised applications have changed little from the previous plans which I also objected to.

Demolishing the current office block to replace it with a new office block 22m higher than the existing is totally inappropriate and out of scale for the area. London already has a significant proportion of empty office space. The height and scale would set a precedent for future developments which would make it difficult for Camden to refuse.

The proposed office building is adjacent to the Bloomsbury Conservation area, and would have a considerable impact on Grade 1 and Grade 2 listed buildings including the British Museum and St George's Church. The West Central Street/Museum Street buildings in the Conservation area would be overshadowed by the tower and the housing left gloomy and dark with little daylight.

We have a climate crisis and demolishing the office block is contrary to Camden's own policies, national policies and GLC's policies all of which advocate retrofitting. A expert report clearly shows this is possible. The recent decision made by the government to refuse demolition in favour of retrofitting regarding the Marks & Spencer Oxford Street building shows that there is national support for this approach.

There is a UK wide housing crisis and there is too little social housing (only 8 for rent) being provided. Demolition of the block would mean a loss of 18 homes which were built as part of the original block.

There are sufficient grounds for this application to be refused and as a local resident I urge Camden to do so.

Sue Cole

Sent from my iPad