

From: Rector
Sent: 09 August 2023 15:18
To: Planning
Cc: David Fowler; Save Museum Street
Subject: Objection:2023/2510/P 2023/2653/L

To Whom it may concern

I wish to register my **objection** to the proposed development of Tower One Museum Street

References 2023/2510/P and 2023/2653/L

As the Rector of St George's Church Bloomsbury, I can with confidence tell you that this proposal has not divided the local community but has united it in one voice which objects to the development. There are many reasons for this:

The tower is far too tall and far too bulky

It will adversely affect local listed buildings such as St George's Church, Bedford Square, and the British Museum. The Conservation Areas of Covent Garden, Bloomsbury and Soho will suffer from its out of scale 74m height.

Putting a taller building on the site will set a precedent for more tall buildings in the neighbourhood, for which Camden will then find it very hard to refuse permission.

The scheme intends to demolish the Travelodge tower and replace it with a brand new much bigger office block. Demolition is contrary to the climate change policies of the UK, Greater London Council and Camden, all of which advocate retrofitting. We commissioned an expert report that proves retrofit is possible.

Our campaign has achieved Grade 2 listed status from Historic England for 6 of the buildings on the West Central St / Museum Street block but the developers still plan to demolish the corner which contains the remains of a 19th century horse stables, thus destroying irreplaceable heritage.

We agree that the site needs improvement but there are other alternatives that are sensitive to the scale and architecture of the area and not based purely on financial greed.

Too little housing is being provided; what is proposed will be dark and with a very badly designed back yard.

Residents in the new housing will be forced to have their electric lights on all day due to lack of daylight

These objections are widely shared and have my full support.

Yours sincerely

The Revd Dr David Peebles

Rector, St George's Church, Bloomsbury