

From: Cara Gordon

Sent: 12 August 2023 23:05

To: Planning

Cc: David Fowler; Save Museum Street

Subject: Objection to Selkirk House Development (References: 2023/2510/P and 2023/2653/L)

Dear David Fowler,

I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed Selkirk House development (References: 2023/2510/P and 2023/2653/L). If the development were to go ahead, it would have detrimental effects on the historic Bloomsbury area and the overall character of the neighbourhood. I urge you to consider the following reasons for my objection:

- 1. Visual Impact:** The proposed tower's substantial height would be a glaring eyesore that would overshadow iconic landmarks such as St. George's Church, Bedford Square, and the British Museum. This drastic alteration of the skyline will irrevocably diminish the visual appeal of Bloomsbury and detract from its historical charm.
- 2. Environmental Concerns:** The demolition of the existing site contradicts the environmental policies set forth by the UK, Greater London Council, and Camden itself. Retrofitting existing structures is a more sustainable approach. The proposed development's environmental footprint and contribution to climate change through demolition are unacceptable in an era where responsible development is paramount.
- 3. Historic Preservation:** The alterations planned for the historic block on Museum St, West Central Street, and New Oxford Street would result in the loss of important period features. Preserving these architectural elements is crucial for maintaining the cultural heritage of Bloomsbury.
- 4. Precedent for Unsightly Buildings:** Approving this development would set a dangerous precedent for allowing tall, unsightly buildings in Bloomsbury. Such a precedent risks irreversibly altering the area's character and historical significance.
- 5. Daylight Deprivation:** The new building's height and placement would lead to environmental theft of light from existing properties. Additionally, residents of the new flats would be forced to rely on

electric lighting during the day due to a lack of natural daylight. This not only affects the quality of life for residents but also contradicts sustainable design principles.

- 6. Lack of Adequate Housing:** The proposed development provides only a minimal number of social housing units, raising questions about who stands to benefit from this project. It is imperative that any development contributes positively to the housing needs of the community.

I implore Camden Council to prioritise the conservation of Bloomsbury's unique historic area and reject the Selkirk House development. This development poses a significant threat to the neighbourhood's visual appeal, environmental sustainability, and historical significance. I hope that you take into account the concerns raised by residents like myself and make a decision that aligns with the best interests of the community to preserve historic Bloomsbury for current and future generations.

Thank you for your attention on this matter and for considering my objections.

Yours faithfully,

Cara Gordon

35 Museum Chambers, Bury Place, London WC1A 2JA