

From:

Sent: 13 September 2023 13:38

To: Planning

Subject: Objection from Toby Worsfold 2023

I strongly object to applications 2023/2510/P and 2023/2653/L.

I am a regular visitor to the Bloomsbury area of London which I use as a base whenever in the capital. I choose to stay in the area primarily because of its character, green spaces and historic architecture. Having been directed to the above planning applications I must object in the strongest possible terms against them. It would be far too close to the British Museum and so many other historic buildings. What they propose would be devastating to the character of the area and ruin what I consider to be the loveliest part of central London. It is unthinkable. I understand that Camden Council have a very poor record already of dismissing objections (to developments judged to be harmful) by the BCAAC. I don't suppose an objection by an individual such as myself will carry any weight at all but nonetheless I have to do this, you can not be allowed to grant this application. You are custodians and this is a conservation area. This planned monstrosity will dominate the skyline and massively impact the local environment, making it less green through receiving less light.

As an artist I am very concerned with light levels and so have studied this area of the applications carefully; it is shameful that anyone should submit an application which fails to meet British Standards across all measures. If this building goes up people will be forced to live and work in the dark, burning electric to see. Students will be the worst affected and given how important this demographic is to the area it is unfair, unjust and unreasonable to take their money while removing the very light by which they study. The application disregards its own failings by stating that some residencies such as student accommodation are 'transitory' implying that the failings do not count or matter in any way, this is incredibly offensive language and completely absurd logic, students are vital to the area, they deserve respect. I would also point out that the statistics in the light studies submitted with these applications are based on a great many assumptions and not clear data.

All of the geographic area of Bloomsbury is covered by the Bloomsbury Conservation Area which was designed to limit new development, and ensure that changes to the built environment preserve and enhance its special character. Does Camden Council recognise this need for historical conservation here? Much of London is beautiful and much of it is green but Bloomsbury is so very special and is used in a very special way by residents and visitors alike; Bloomsbury has its own subculture which is derived from centuries of social and professional use by cultured, artistic and academically minded individuals. There is nowhere else like it in London, where people are quiet, where anti-social behaviour is hardly ever visible, people read to their children instead of handing them a screen. Bloomsbury is a place of quiet contemplation, reflection and inspiration and this is due to its history, accumulated over centuries and passed from one generation to the next. This history imposes expectations on the individual through its iconic architecture and the many exquisite squares and gardens. I fear that being overshadowed by this proposed behemoth of an unsightly modern building will greatly reduce that expectation.

I understand that the site of the proposed building is currently designated as a 'development zone' by Camden Council which I quite understand, but giving us another unwanted tower block is not development but degenerative. Last time I was in the area I looked up at the Centre Point building and saw only 2 apartments lit and in use at 9pm. We do not need another like this, one is a travesty, two would raise serious questions as to how the planning committee was convinced to grant such an application. Give us something of real value to us, why not keep the car park but fit every space with an electric charger, now that we need. Repurpose the travel lodge as student accommodation or use for immigrant families. Please, please, please do the right thing for the people you represent and to conserve a culture of considered, educated social and professional reflection and exchange.

Regards Toby Worsfold

59 Canning Street

Liverpool

Merseyside

L87NW