

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2023/3419/P	Diane	15/11/2023 17:07:39	COMMNT	<p>Noise from new uses</p> <p>A major concern is about the return to the noise and antisocial behaviour experienced for many years by residents of the blocks overlooking the square. The problem of sleep deprivation, fear, upset and the need for constant contact with the police is well rehearsed but memories are short and after four years of comparative peace we dread a return of the drug dealing/drug taking, knife crime, fights, to name but a few of our fears.</p> <p>Local residents suffered almost continual anti-social behaviour, due to there formerly being seven benches in Brooke's Market. We have evidence over many years of the parties, drugs dealing/usage, fights, knife crime and noise at a level that permeated our flats until the early mornings. The police had to be called most nights. It took us over 10 years of continual battle with Camden (even though the police supported our request) before the benches were removed. It is soul-destroying to even contemplate a return to the provision of any kind of seating.</p> <p>A statement from the Metropolitan police, obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, shows the difference in the number of calls in a sample year before the benches were removed from Brooke's Market, and the number of calls after they were removed: 69 calls June 2019-2020 compared with 19 calls June 2021-2022 (the statement can be provided if necessary).</p> <p>Leather Lane market is poorly controlled. It is now mainly a draw for commuters who flock there, along with the seagulls and vermin, to partake of the 'street food'. Other, more stable businesses have suffered and had to give up. We appreciate that money is spent there, but the mess, noise and arrogance of stallholders who ride roughshod over local residents makes me concerned that they are being given a stronger voice than the people who live here.</p> <p>The proposal to include a bar in the new build, and the possible extension in space for stall holders is extremely worrying and would be nothing short of cruel to residents.</p> <p>Design, size and height - Loss of light and privacy Both sides of Langdale House are already overshadowed by buildings. On the north side, the Record Hall (which was allowed to add extra height when renovated) darkens our kitchen, so we need to have a light on in there during most of the day. On the south side, light to our building is already affected by the existing Waterhouse Square building.</p> <p>In the afternoon, the light is good, but we can see very little of the sky. The band of sky is so narrow that even a small loss would have a significant impact. The ability to see the sky, even a little, is extremely important to mental health. The effect would be even worse on the two floors of Langdale House that are lower than mine.</p> <p>The current light-well that runs through the middle of the existing building would be lost. The glass well would be replaced by bricks to accommodate more offices. For Cranley Building, this would further decrease access to light.</p> <p>We would lose privacy, as the offices would see straight into our flats.</p> <p>To use electric lighting for longer periods during the day is a backward step environmentally, but would also</p>

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have a detrimental effect on health. Mental health is significantly impacted by loss of light, and for some of us who are affected by poor eyesight/migraines, the dimming of our home and loss of sky would be a great blow.

Impact of noise from plant equipment

The layout of Brooke's Market means that noise echoes around. Even conversations held outside can be heard indoors by residents.

Langdale House suffered badly from the rebuilding of the Record Hall, which backs onto our homes. Clouds of grit, dirt, sand and excessive noise made our lives a misery for several years.

We then had the well-known problems of the huge building in Brooke Street.

During those times, our voices went unheard and objections were brushed aside. What will make us believe that Waterhouse Square will be any different?

Children, elderly and people living with challenging health conditions live within our community, all of whom have been harmed by the relentless arrogance of past developments which have overlooked the fact that this small area mainly comprises residential buildings.

The effect on The Lodge (a St Mungo's provision also overlooking the development) has been completely ignored. These are vulnerable residents with very little voice in the community.

Impact of development on traffic, parking and road safety

It is already difficult for those who pay for resident permits to find a space in Brooke's Market. The rebuild will take out almost half of the few spaces we have. Deliveries to our homes will be impossible.

Access for disabled and elderly residents would be severely affected; those who rely on their own vehicles, black cabs, patient transport would be marooned.

During the rebuild in Brooke Street, there were occasions when a crane or other piece of heavy machinery/lorries would block the street, effectively keeping prisoner those of us who rely on a vehicle for work or due to disability/family needs.

We will be denied the peace of our homes for several years.
