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**From:** Debbie Radcliffe [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 19 December 2023 19:58  
[REDACTED]  
**Subject:** 2023/4072/L - Princes Circus Drinking Water Fountain

Dear Catherine

I have just been alerted to the fact that the long delayed return of the Princes Circus Drinking Water Fountain is being held up by the Highways West End Project Team wanting to remove the requirement that the fountain be provided with a drinking water supply.

I understand that a new listed building consent application [2023/4072/L] has been submitted to have this requirement removed.

I strongly object to this application.

Approval of the fountain's relocation was given on the basis that the fountain could be used as a drinking fountain in the future, thereby enhancing its historic and architectural importance.

The applicant should be required to provide a connection to the water supply to honour their obligation to reinstate the fountain as a drinking fountain.

The Mayor of London has partnered with Thames Water to install a network of more than 100 drinking water fountains in busy and accessible areas of London.

Princes Circus is a popular and accessible location for tourists and residents. The fact this was a working water fountain adds to its value both from a heritage and community perspective.

The principle of its relocation was accepted due to the fact the fountain was moved a short distance in 2003 as part of a previous landscaping and highways project. But this relocation should not inhibit its primary function as a drinking fountain which provides running water to the public.

In short, it is unacceptable that the West End Project Team - whose design for the space required the relocation of the water fountain - no longer want the drinking water fountain to provide drinking water, thereby reneging on the original agreement.

Reading the West End Project website, we are told that Princes Circus "has been beautifully redesigned to improve the pedestrian route between Covent Garden and the British Museum."

People of all ages and backgrounds get thirsty from walking. A functioning drinking fountain fulfils the aims of the Mayor and that of Camden Council to create a welcoming urban space in the Bloomsbury Conservation Area with the additional draw of drinking water provision within an historic setting.

I encourage you to refuse the application and insist that the Princes Circus Drinking Water Fountain is reinstated as a unique example of a listed water fountain which provides drinking water to the public, thereby enhancing its historic and architectural significance.

I am responding to this consultation as a member of the Bloomsbury CAAC and as co-chair of the Bloomsbury Residents Action Group.

Kind regards

Debbie Radcliffe

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