

Application N	Consultees Name	Recipient Address	Received	Comment	Response
2025/1542/P	Tom McFarlane	2 Greek Street London W1	30/04/2025 21:53:55	PETITNO BJE	<p>1.</p> <p>The documents attached to this document do not match the description given on the front Details page for this Application 2025/1542/P. The “Proposal” section given on the latter says, “CHANGES ARE to the configuration of the plant equipment at roof level at White Lion House including design development of attenuators; positioning of fans; changing of extract system and additional smoke extracts.” But the documents seem to refer to a planter at street level on St Giles Square. Therefore, this consultation is not fair. Most members of the public would not realise that the application is for highly visible public space (if indeed that is correct).</p> <p>2.</p> <p>The Design Statement says on page 2 that over the long-term, Almacantar wishes to address the following issues, among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “unfinished square restricting ability to capture increased foot traffic... 180 000 visitors per day at peak times”</li> <li>• “lack of strategic programming to create unique identity and reasons for visitors to return”</li> </ul> <p>These are contradictory aims, and each present challenges in their own right. The contradiction is: if the square cannot “capture” foot traffic, why are Almacantar aiming to get visitors to return more frequently? It does not make sense to “capture” people in a square overlooked by 36 residential flats wherein the residents are affected by noise nuisance from the square – we residents have complained about this extensively to Camden Council. It is not obvious that the square is “unfinished”. Further, “strategic programming” sounds like a euphemism for more noise nuisance-generating activities.</p> <p>3.</p> <p>Why is the name of the Camden officer who gave Pre-application Advice redacted? This is not a transparent way of working. What else is being hidden from public view in this Planning application?</p> <p>4.</p> <p>The Application fails to mention that the planter in that position had thriving plant life in it until Almacantar decided to change its profile (angling its profile towards the pavement at the front) a few years ago to attempt to stop skateboarders from using the then-planter-edge. Almacantar also fails to mention that other planters in St Giles Square were not properly maintained by Almacantar for years leading up to the pandemic, and Camden Council ordered their removal because they were an eye-sore. The issue is Almacantar’s lack of interest to maintain plant life, not some “design flaw” in the planter.</p> <p>The proposal will remove greenery from a high-footfall area. This is negative, and I cannot support that. Greenery is known to reduce stress in urban environments, and a high number of people benefit from even small pockets of greenery in this location (up to 180 000 per day according to the applicant themselves).</p>

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					5. The proposed text in the new structure ("Whenever you see the sun reflected in the window of a building it is an angel") is trite and barely comprehensible. We should have higher standards for public spaces.

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