

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Consultees Addr:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2014/4355/L	Mark Swenarton	8 Brookland Rise London NW11 6DL	21/08/2014 09:34:37	INT	<p>Planning application for Jack Taylor School, Ainsworth Way NW8 0SR Comment by Professor Mark Swenarton*</p> <p>As an historian of social housing, and particularly that built by Camden in the 1960s and 1970s, I have looked with interest at the proposals for the Jack Taylor School site and especially the document 'Camden Westminster Kingsway College: Heritage Assessment & Conservation Proposals: Stage D Report 23.07.14' by Robert Loader Architect and Clements and Porter Architects.</p> <p>I would make two main comments, one relating to the location of the new entrance and the other to the architectural character of the proposed new buildings as it relates to the existing grade 2 and grade 2* context.</p> <p>1. Location of new entrance. While the reasons for wanting to create a separate entrance for the new buildings are completely understandable, the proposed location of the entrance, adjacent to the main vehicular access to the 500-dwelling estate, creates a prima facie risk of mishap. If the council is minded to approve the application, due diligence would surely require it first to commission a risk assessment from a reputable independent insurer or similar, if only in order to provide protection in the event of a future claim.</p> <p>2. Architectural character of the new buildings. As described in the last paragraph of section 4.5 (p16), the original architect Neave Brown had a distinctive approach to detailing and materiality which forms a key part of the architectural and historic value of the built ensemble of the Alexandra Road project. It is essential that proper cognizance of this is displayed in the new architectural designs as they develop. I therefore entirely concur with the statement contained in the Stage D Report (6.6.5, p22) that 'The detailed development of the proposal will need to proceed with care in order to maintain the character and distinctiveness of the college and the Alexandra Road estate of which it is part.' To ensure that this happens I would hope that the council will condition the approval awaiting further development and refinement of the design. This should apply especially to (1) the western façade of the life skills block it addresses the playground (2) the glazed link between the existing teaching wings and (3) the new entrance.</p> <p>*described in the Heritage Assessment & Conservation Proposals: Stage D Report 23.07.14, para 4.6 p16 as 'Britain's foremost authority on the architecture of social housing' and the source for much of the historical information in the report.</p>

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2014/4355/L	elizabeth knowles	13 (b) rowley way abbey road	19/08/2014 12:58:02	COMMNT	<p>I object to this change of use and to the proposed building of accommodation for adults.</p> <p>The Jack Taylor school was built specifically for small people and should be a school/building for such. It is not suitable for adults at all being of small carefully thought out proportions. Shocking to think of 25 adults in this small low ceiling environment-built to be friendly to children .</p> <p>It would be prison like - not at suitable and may exacerbate their fragile condition.Possibly the care home beside it would be able to be converted back to the original and (ironically) similar use.</p> <p>From the architectural aspect the Jack Taylor school there is a shortage of school sites and Jack Taylor site should have been used as soon as it was vacated by being some type of junior school. It is always disappointing to find that politics override sensible decisions.</p> <p>Find a good site for these people - do not shortchange them and squeeze them into something which is unsuitable.</p>
