

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Consultees Addr:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2014/4639/P	John Hare and Lisa Jardine	51 Bedford Court Mansions Bedford Avenue London WC1B 3AA	19/08/2014 22:31:30	COMMNT	<p>During last year the St Giles' Hotel and the operator of the bar within the hotel made a series of unauthorised changes to the St Giles' Hotel with a view to opening the previously internal bar onto the pavement of Bedford Avenue. The site is unsuitable for such use as it is directly opposite a residential building and obstructs a public pavement that leads from Tottenham Court Road into the Bloomsbury Conservation Area and the British Museum. These changes were strongly opposed by local residents and after various consultations we understood that the attempts to retrospectively legitimise these incursions had been rejected by the various Council agencies. We further understand that a planning enforcement action had resulted in a direction to have the current illegal canopy erected by the St Giles' Hotel / Hudson's House removed.</p> <p>It is therefore beggars belief that the Council would now agree to a fresh application to build a much more substantial canopy in the same location, as it so clearly designed to establish private occupation of the public pavement. The proposal describes a permanently deployed and waterproof canopy that also contains illuminated advertising. Bizarrely, the Council appears to have sanctioned this new advertising under application 2014/3894/A even though the structure to which the signage would be attached is not consented.</p> <p>We wish therefore to object to this new application on the strongest possible grounds. The history of planning, highways and licencing applications by these organisations points to a sole objective of establish permanent use of the public highway for unrestricted bar use. Even though each previous application has been rejected, St Giles' Hotel / Hudson's House remain determined to try to push through measures to achieve substantially the same ends. This present planning application is more critical than many earlier attempts, in that it proposes to create a permanent and waterproof enclosure above the pavement with signage to delimit the area beneath as private rather than public space, further applications to colonise the space would no doubt follow.</p> <p>To consent to this application would undermine the Council's future authority in all planning matters and be an unjustified derogation of its obligations to the local community.</p> <p>Yours faithfully John Hare MA RIBA Prof Lisa Jardine CBE</p>
