

Development Management
Planning Service
London Borough of Camden
5 Pancras Square
London
N1C 4AG

22 October 2014

For the attention of Mr Neil McDonald

PLANNING PERMISSION 2010/4721/P DISCHARGE OF CONDITION 8

DEVELOPMENT TO PROVIDE A BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH CENTRE INCLUDING LABORATORY AND RESEARCH SPACE, LECTURING AND TEACHING SPACE, EXHIBITION SPACE AND A COMMUNITY FACILITY; A NEW PEDESTRIAN ROUTE BETWEEN MIDLAND ROAD AND OSSULSTON STREET; A SERVICE ENTRANCE OFF BRILL PLACE AND A RELOCATED VEHICULAR ACCESS FROM MIDLAND ROAD TO SERVE THE BRITISH LIBRARY

In accordance with the requirements of the planning consent issued in respect to planning reference 2010/4721/P dated 10th March 2011, we are pleased to enclose details pursuant to Condition 8 relating to the provision of public art within the front area of the Institute, within the designated public realm but within the boundary of our client's ownership.

For your assistance the discharge of this condition has been submitted on-line via the Planning Portal together with the relevant submission fee of £97.00.

Condition 8

The wording of the condition is as follows:

"Details of a scheme for public art to be included within the public realm of the development shall be submitted to and approved by the local planning authority prior to its installation and shall be implemented in accordance with such scheme as has been approved.."

In accordance with the requirements of this condition, we are pleased to enclose the relevant information necessary to discharge this requirement.

It would, at this stage, be worth advising that the proposed sculpture was selected through a formal competition where seven artists were presented to the Crick's art panel, who then shortlisted three artists to present their ideas for a sculpture to go outside the Institute.

The three artists presented at least two concepts each to the panel on the 19 Sept 2013 and at the end of all the presentations the panel were asked to vote for their favourite of all the concepts. The Panel comprised nine individuals and included Mike Cook and Anna Vickery as representatives for Camden Council.

The Artist's brief required the design to:

- a foundation in, and relevance to, the sciences, but not to be 'illustrative' of science in any way.
- It had to appeal on many levels but must:
 - Have intrigue and have credibility with the Crick's staff
 - be accessible and appealing to the wider public
 - be a beacon for the institute
 - sympathetic to the building's architecture and the local area.
- be robust enough to withstand the challenges of its urban location, including potential vandalism and adverse weather conditions
- be sympathetic to, and responded to, the location of the new building and the surrounding area of Somers Town and Kings Cross
- be easy to clean, maintain and care for.

The winning design was titled 'Paradigm' by Conrad Shawcross and it seeks to embrace the full scope of the design brief.

Following selection of 'Paradigm' as the preferred artwork, an Artworks and Memorials Application was submitted to the Council earlier this year (Case Officer was Amanda Davis). That application was referred to both the Council's Access Officer and to the Highways Department for comment and they responded as follows:

Highways: My only concern would be with regard to its structural stability and the risk that it could fall onto the highway. We have a structures team here who could be able to assess that if necessary

Access officer: The only comments I have on this is that the surface should not be too highly reflective or provide too much glare when the sun is on it as this can create confusion for visually impaired people. There should also be sufficient visual contrast between the paving and the sculpture so that it is clearly visible to all.

The design was approved in June 2014, at which time the Planning Department were advised of that decision. Copies of the application form and approval (email) are attached for your information

The sculpture will stand 14 metres high and it was originally intended to be made from marine-grade steel, but as a result of the comments made through the Artworks and Memorials Application, the material now proposed is Cor-ten. This this will ensure that there will be no reflection from the feature which could affect those with a visual impairment. This is consistent with other materials, addresses the Access Officers concerns and reflects the industrial heritage of the area.

The design comprises a series of tetrahedra that increase in size and appear to 'grow' on top of one another to an impressive height and volume. The footprint of the sculpture will be minimal (1 metre), compared to the final tetrahedron poised on the top that will be 5.5metres wide. Highway Officers comments are noted regarding the need to ensure the structural integrity and we have confirmed with structural engineers that the design at the footings addresses their concerns. In any event, we will need to satisfy Building Control Officers of this in due course in any event.

The geometry of the structure is fundamental to the piece, and the overall effect that the artist achieves is that the sculpture almost 'pierces' the ground, and the geometry suggests that the increase and decrease in the size of the sculpture could go on indefinitely.

Although not a planning issue relevant to the consideration of the scheme, we can confirm that the sculpture takes into consideration all sub-surface structures and utilities and the Crick has already consulted and obtained agreement.

Finally, with respect to this submission, we confirmed with Officers, including Ed Watson, last year that this submission would be appropriately dealt with by way of the required condition discharge and did not warrant a formal application.

Against the above supporting detail, this submission comprises:

- The completed application form dated 22nd October 2014;
- A copy of the application for Artworks and Memorials Approval including Conrad Shawcross' CV;
- The email approval of the Artworks and Memorials application detailing the Access and Highway Officers comments;
- Rendered images of the proposed artwork (in Cor-ten);
- The following drawings:
 - 1334.201.T1 – Proposed Plan
 - 1334.301.T1 – Proposed Elevation
 - 1334.401.T1 – General Construction Details

– 1334.T402.T1 – Typical Details

- £97.00 to cover the relevant application fee.

We trust you will find the attached to be in order and look forward to receipt of the relevant notice confirming discharge of this specific condition in due course. Hopefully, given that the Artworks and Memorials Application has already been approved and that Access and Highways Officers have reviewed the proposals already an early decision might be possible in this case. However, should you require any further information or clarification on any of the details submitted, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Willmott', written over a faint circular stamp.

PAUL WILLMOTT
DIRECTOR