

Suttle Willis & Company
Colville Place Gallery
1 Colville Place London
W1T 2BG

Planning officer Tania Skelli-Yaoz

8/10/2014

Re: Planning Application 2013/8158/P 27/29 Whitfield ST W1

Dear Tania

I am the Proprietor and leaseholder of the art gallery at number 1 Colville place. The proposed development is next door and will have a substantial impact upon my business.

Firstly on behalf of the gallery Tim Maddison objected to the original application but we have not been notified of the revisions. Subsequently a neighbour notified me of a revised plan with a closing date of 8th October. Therefore I object to not being notified of revisions but in any case the short deadline for comment was not a reasonable timeframe for review of the alterations.

Objections to Planning Application

I object to the planning applications on these points:

1. The proposed change of site of windows to move them very close to the gallery front door. We must have doors (and windows) open in the gallery for public access. The proposal to enlarge the windows at the development but also move them to a little over a metre distance from the gallery door with the added noise conversations and activity of a building occupied by more people (as is proposed) and the possible playing of music will give rise to conflict. We have telephones in the gallery and have quiet conversations on the telephone and in person, in our day to day running. The windows in the planning must remain where they are.
2. Public and suppliers access to gallery will be adversely affected and will negatively impact on business. The art gallery at number 1 is listed and is the only ground floor public accessible commercial space in Colville place. It is the oldest gallery space in Fitzrovia and is a well-known local landmark. Many members of the public and suppliers frequent the gallery, which can increase to hundreds during short timeframes such as private views. The exhibitions have regularly made the national and international news. It is imperative we have uninterrupted and safe access for the public and suppliers. We have a number of shows that are planned throughout the year.
3. The vastly increased traffic to Whitfield St by the contractors and their suppliers parking, loading and unloading of goods will cause an obstruction and prevent easy and reasonable access to the gallery.
4. The new proposed roof balcony overlooks existing private roof terraces all along the street, even with the latest alterations because of the extra height of the proposal it still makes it an easy overlooking view into peoples roof terraces and takes away their privacy.
5. Noise from the roof plant. Noise travels a long way in this enclosed high wall environment.
 - a. The park in Colville Place is an essential oasis of recreation in a busy environment. To allow a roof plant with subsequent noise is a vandalism of this public facility.
 - b. The gallery also has a skylight that would allow noise ingress from new plant.

Request for a copy of the construction management plan for review and to ensure the following points have been included.

1. Health and safety: During any period of construction there must be uninterrupted access from

Whitfield street for deliveries to the gallery. The gallery supplier's vehicles must have the shortest delivery distance for all goods which includes but not limited to sheets of glass. Currently supplier's vehicles are able to unload goods from Whitfield Street at the entrance to Colville Place opposite the police premises. For health and safety reasons sheets of glass should not be delivered along Colville Place from Charlotte St, or too far down Whitfield Street as this is a potential danger for the public as well as the delivery personnel. This must be addressed in the management construction plan.

2. The aspect of the gallery is largely approached from Whitfield Street and building materials and scaffolding will adversely affect my business aspect and affect the public footfall to the gallery. This must be minimized and made as attractive.
3. The noise levels must be managed during any construction, to allow for the public to come and view exhibitions in a way that does not interrupt my business. I have several national exhibitions planned and the public must be allowed to stand in the gallery and the gallery area in front of the building. It is imperative for my business that these are able to go ahead and permit my business to continue. The rear gallery wall is a party wall to the development and during recent site clearing works the noise stopped us from using the telephones and having conversation within the gallery.
4. The timeframe for building works changes must be as short as possible to minimize adverse effects to gallery business.

Thank you for your considerations of these points.

Yours sincerely

Martyn Willis

Proprietor Suttle Willis & Co

c.c. Chalcots