

[REDACTED]

From: Thuaire, Charles
Sent: 08 December 2014 11:30
To: Planning
Subject: FW: PLANNING APPLICATION 2014/6845/P – ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL

Please register this on m3 as an objection to **2014/6845/P**
thanks

Charles Thuaire
Senior Planning Officer

Telephone: [REDACTED]

From: Lewis Blackwell [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 December 2014 18:45
To: Thuaire, Charles
Subject: PLANNING APPLICATION 2014/6845/P – ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL

Dear Charles Thuaire

I write to raise concern at the scale of the proposed new building at the Royal Free Hospital (planning application 2014/6845/P).

This proposal is for a building that is much too large for the site. It will seriously affect the views of the listed St. Stephen's Church, one of Teulon's finest buildings, as well as encroaching heavily on valuable and historic open space. It will also generally increase the excessive massing of the overall hospital building, which is highly intrusive on the surrounding environment. To allow further growth of this over-scale building would be to fly in the face of all logic about protecting general scale of buildings in the surrounding environment and protecting the character of the area.

The building would change the character and quality of an important piece of green space, in Hampstead Green.

At a time when we are increasingly gathering awareness of the importance of green infrastructure in our cities - for the health and liveability of urban environments - it is approaching the absurd that a hospital building would take away and generally undermine green space in the city. If anything, recent studies (as gathered the publication 'Living Cities' by consultants Arup) show that physical and mental health, along with the sustainability of the city in terms of drainage, temperature maintenance, and air quality, depends on maintaining and developing the amount of park spaces and other planting in our city. This proposal to plonk a large hospital building upon and next to green space is wholly counter to the knowledge of our time around green infrastructure. (Compare with the Alder Hay hospital rebuilding in Liverpool, where the overall effect is actually to increase parkland as a result of rebuilding a hospital).

There is also an issue about the hospital creating any more traffic in an area where the roads are already congested.

I encourage you to advise against this application as being inappropriate in scale and infrastructure implications. It needs to be seriously reconsidered: there are ways in which some level of building could be done to expand the hospital but this is not a proposal of the right size or design quality.

I write as both a local resident, and also as a professional working in the area of built environment quality.

yours
Lewis Blackwell

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