

From: Russell, Lorna (Councillor)
Sent: 20 January 2015 12:45
To: Planning
Cc: Litherland, Jenna
Subject: Planning Application 2014/7966/P

Dear Sir / Madam,

I would like to comment on planning application 2014/7966/P for the redevelopment of the West Hampstead Overground station. On balance I welcome the much-needed redevelopment of the station, but I have some concerns to raise about specific aspects of the design.

Public transport in West Hampstead can be very crowded, and with populations expected to increase over the next few years, I welcome plans to increase transport capacity in the area. I also understand that works to this station will be required in 2015 to lengthen the platforms to accommodate the new five-carriage Overground trains.

In relation to planning application 2014/7966/P, I particularly welcome the introduction of disabled access and lifts to the station, which will make the station accessible to the disabled, travellers with suitcases and parents with buggies.

I also welcome the fact that the station will be set back from the road, which will give more space to pedestrians in an area where the pavements are currently very narrow.

However, I believe that the station should have a second passenger entrance, as exists at the Thameslink station. This would help to accommodate extra passenger numbers and manage passenger flow, and it would be relatively easy to achieve if the emergency stairwell exit and new doorway were opened up.

Further, the aesthetic design of the station, principally the proposed roof, does not complement the existing buildings in the vicinity. I believe that the design should have a "greener" feel, with new trees planted at or near the station.

There are worries in the community that the proposed retail unit could be designated as a café or estate agents, even though there are already several of both of these in the nearby area. I believe it would therefore be appropriate to consult with the community further about the designation for any retail unit on the site.

I am disappointed that no changes have been made to the scheme following the consultation events that took place in West Hampstead in Q4 2014. I would therefore like to see TfL show regards to concerns raised by residents in this planning application consultation.

Kind regards,

Cllr Lorna Russell

Cllr. Lorna Russell
Fortune Green Ward (Labour / Co-op)
London Borough of Camden