

From: Henrietta Billings <henrietta@c20society.org.uk>
Sent: 04 February 2015 15:44
To: McDonald, Neil
Subject: Planning Application Ref: 2014/5946/P

21-31 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1BA
Planning application ref: 2014/5946/P

Dear Mr McDonald,

The Twentieth Century Society wishes to object to the above planning application due to the impact of the new development on the setting of Commonwealth House on New Oxford Street. This building, which sits adjacent to the application site, is noted as a positive contributor to the Bloomsbury Conservation Area and is an important element of Camden's urban historic fabric. We consider Commonwealth House to form a successful and robust element of 20th century street architecture.

Built in 1939, to the designs of H. P. Cart de Lafontaine, Commonwealth House pre-dates the former Sorting Office, and the existing view along High Holborn shows how the later building was clearly designed to knit into the existing urban fabric in terms of massing and scale. The dislocated roof top feature of the former sorting office – common on buildings from this period - compliments this important view of Commonwealth House.

In our view the proposals, including the recent revisions, will harm the setting of Commonwealth House due to the size and overwhelming mass of the proposed replacement building. As such we wish to object to the proposals in their current form.

Kind regards

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