Application No:	Consultees Name:	Consultees Addr:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2015/0672/P	Bloomsbury CAAC	c/o Hugh Cullum Architects 61B Judd Street London WC1H 9QT	19/03/2015 22:39:24	OBJ	2015/ 0672/ P

The Advisory Committee objects strongly to the application to change the use of a BT telephone box to a self-contained retail kiosk. This proposed commercial enterprise will impact negatively on the easy passage of pedestrians who walk in large numbers around Russell Square; it will also impact negatively on the quality of life of those who live and work in the neighbourhood, especially as to the north-west of the square is a grade II listed, timber-clad Cabmen's Shelter dating from 1897, a place where workers can still enjoy an economical breakfast.
[DP26: Managing the impact of development on occupiers and neighbours].

In particular the proposal goes against Camden's Policy DP25: Conserving Camden's heritage. Russell Square is the largest of Bloomsbury's squares and was developed following the construction of Bedford Square, utilising land that had formerly been reserved to maintain the view north from the later demolished Bedford House. The square was originally laid out by Humphrey Repton, a leading landscape architect in the early 19th century. The change of use of the BT phone box opposite the Wiener Library into a self contained retail kiosk completely undermines the status of this historic square which provides a sense of openness in the Conservation Area and benefits from views of landmark buildings in all directions.

The unwelcome intrusion of an inappropriate focus for commercial activity will certainly not preserve and enhance the character and appearance of the conservation area. It will increase a sense of clutter on the street. It will have a negative impact on the views. The addition of advertising, self service coffee machines or whatever else is proposed for the BT telephone kiosk will cause harm to the conservation area. The planning application should be refused.