

From: Carr, Seonaid
Sent: 22 May 2015 15:53
To: Peres Da Costa, David
Subject: FW: BCAAC -Re: 2015/1281/P - UCLH Phase V Huntley Street

David could you do me a favour and PDF this and send back to me.

Thanks

Seonaid Carr
Principal Planning Officer

Telephone: 020 7974 2766

From: Bloomsbury Conservation Area Advisory Committee [mailto:BCAAC@hughcullum.com]
Sent: 27 April 2015 13:13
To: Carr, Seonaid
Subject: BCAAC -Re: 2015/1281/P - UCLH Phase V Huntley Street

Bloomsbury Conservation Area Advisory Committee

c/o Hugh Cullum Architects
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London WC1H 9QT
Tel 020 7383 7647
Fax 020 7387 7645
BCAAC@hughcullum.com

Dear Seonaid,

We were initially invited to a consultation on this one in August 2014. We were pleased to see that the original entry block onto Capper Street was to be preserved and posted the following on our website:

The BCAAC were recently consulted on the preliminary proposals for UCLH's plans for the Royal Ear Hospital at the corner of Capper street and Huntley Street. The existing building has a fine and intricate entrance facade of carved and moulded brickwork and is, quite rightly, locally listed. We were pleased to note that the current proposals will retain the facades of the end entrance block and it will become a staff entrance. This should enable the retention of some of the interior reception spaces even though the lift will be replaced.

Nonetheless we urged the designers to reduce the overall height of their proposal and to develop a facade treatment along Huntley Street which is less fully glazed (it seems to be a standard assumption that semi-public buildings should have completely transparent perimeters) and more imaginative than the rather mechanical bay motif which we were shown. We hope to be consulted further when the design has advanced further.

The we were invited back again in February this year and were appalled to see that the proposal was now to demolish the original block. The following expressed our thoughts after this meeting - in fact we walked out:

'we were extremely disappointed to discover that the revised scheme failed to preserve the really very fine existing entry facade to the original hospital. It has some extremely good carving and brickwork and is really one of the few remaining pieces of building which give a clue to the long and important medical history of the area. It seems that just about the only remnant now is the nearby Cruciform building which is (thankfully) listed.

We think that the reasons given for removing the existing facade - that it would 'improve patient experience' and that it would allow a better relation to the building opposite (which is a terrible building and completely unrelated to the CA) were spurious fig-leaves for the simple fact that your client is striving to maximise the floor plate area and efficiency at the cost of the due regard to the conservation area.

We were told that the application is due to be registered in a couple of weeks and frankly at this stage, with your proposal so far adrift from what we had hoped, it would have been a waste of our time discussing it further.

We shall object strongly to the proposal.'

So to sum it - we object strongly to the scheme primarily because of the demolition of the Capper Street entrance block which is a noted local contributor and is representative of the special historical medical character of this part of the Conservation Area. The proposed replacement is pedestrian and apparently designed to relate to the building opposite on Capper Street. This building is entirely inappropriate to the conservation area in scale, details and materials.

Kind regards,

Hugh Cullum

for BCAAC

On 24 Apr 2015, at 16:56, Carr, Seonaid wrote:

Dear Hugh,

The Council recently consulted you on the above application for 'Erection of a 6 storey building and excavation works to create a 3 storey basement, comprising a head and neck outpatient hospital (Class D1) following demolition of the former UCL Student Union and Royal Ear Hospital buildings.'

I haven't had a response from the CAAC and I just wondered if you were intending to submit one? If so would you be able to get this to me by Tuesday of next week? The consultation period expired on 13th April.

Regards,

Seonaid Carr
Principal Planning Officer
Regeneration and Planning
Culture and Environment
London Borough of Camden

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