

11 Platt's Lane  
London  
NW3 7NP

12 June 2015

Dear Sirs,

Application Reference 2015/2414/P

I am writing in relation to the Certificate of Lawful Development (Existing) Consultation for the King's College Hampstead Campus and would like to make the following points:

1. The consultation states that the Proposed Work is "Use as Student Accommodation across the whole site". This does not spell out the full implications of this Lawful Development Consultation in terms of the future development of the King's site into housing. As I understand it the consultation is to determine that the whole of the north site is all student accommodation. If this Certificate is granted then the site can be switched easily to be entirely residential. This is all very unclear and no ordinary local resident, without some effort, could be expected to realise that the purpose of this application is to ease the change of use of the site.

From what I understand, by granting the Certificate, Camden would not obligate the developer to provide any community space. What follows makes the case for a modest community space within the context of what will be a very large new housing development.

2. The King's College Hampstead Campus was the original Westfield College founded in 1882 for the higher education of women, one of a group of then new institutions offering opportunities to reside and study. Education was at the core of Westfield College and, critically, this was a place for education not just accommodation. For example, Caroline Skeel (of the halls and libraries) was made the University's Professor of History in 1925 - the teaching took place here on the north side of Kidderpore Avenue. The history is fascinating for its own sake, see [www.women.qmul.ac.uk](http://www.women.qmul.ac.uk), but is also critically important in determining this application. This is because, since 1889 (when Westfield moved here) education has been at the core of the Westfield site.
3. It is also worth noting that the north site was used for a wide range of activities:
  - library
  - refectory
  - science laboratories
  - a principal's lodging. Specifically you should be aware that the original villa (Kidderpore Hall) was for a substantial and recent period the Spiro Institute of Jewish History and Culture.

4. The use by St Margaret's School of the Lower Skeel Hall over a number of years for its assemblies, gymnastics, drama lessons and examinations was entirely in keeping with the core objects of the Westfield site. It was not "ancillary" to the main purpose of the site nor, surely, would it have been appropriate for King's to have made a change of use application to enable it to rent out the Lower Skeel Hall when education was what this establishment is all about. Both arguments are suggested by the King's/developer's CLEUD Supporting Statement in relation to this application. However the Supporting Statement does not take into account the educational context and long educational history of this site. As Chairman of the Governors of St Margaret's School, I support the school's detailed submissions to this consultation.
5. I have lived very close to the site for the last 12 and a half years. I have attended community events at the Skeel Halls on a number of occasions. These include local residents' meetings (some attended by local councillors), local exhibitions including the consultations for the development of the Barratt site on the south side of Kidderpore Avenue, an exhibition connected with the reroofing of the reservoir etc. The Westfield site has always been more than student accommodation; after all the Westfield College was a "standalone" educational institution. It was never merely a student halls of residence as is now being represented. This representation is false. Indeed the very nature of the large spaces such as the Lower Skeel, indicate that the spaces were educational ones.
6. The fact that the various non-student accommodation uses of the site (as outlined in the Application) have not been the subject of planning applications in the past serves to demonstrate that the site has been one of continued mixed use.
7. I am convinced that everyone in and surrounding the new development on the Kidderpore North and South site would benefit from a hall, not least the two adjacent schools, namely St Margaret's and St Luke's. There is a lack of community facilities in the vicinity, particularly spaces which are not religiously affiliated. A hall could enable the long tradition of education on the site to continue, albeit it in a small way.

I appreciate the formal consultation period has expired. Nonetheless I have been assured by Camden's Planning Office that, in accordance with usual procedure, this submission can be taken into account.

Yours faithfully

Emily Brettle