

Dike, Darlene

From: Jo Hurford [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 June 2015 19:00
To: Planning
Cc: Vincent, Sue (Councillor)
Subject: Objection and comment, Rosenheim & Odeon site, WC1E 6DB

Application Ref: 2015/2771/P
Associated Ref: 2013/819/P

I am against this application as I am concerned that if building work has already commenced before the relevant studies to do with noise, vibration etc have been done it may mean that there will not be enough time to change aspects of the design of the building, things that could potentially cause the lives of residents to become intolerable.

You will note that condition 25 was one I mentioned in my objection to the original planning application. I copy my response here –“Conditions 24, 25, 28-30 It also needs to be taken into account when measuring air conditioning unit/machinery noise that there is something that drones already and is very bothersome to my sleep. Any new noise combined with that could be a real problem. We must be given triple glazing to stop extra noise menace.” I now know this noise comes from the back of the UCL Cruciform building in Huntley Street. It is imperative that noise mitigation schemes are delivered before building commences in case it is then thought ‘too late’ to change the design to minimise the impact on residents.

When I received the letter about the application I telephoned the Camden planning department and was told I ought to list some of the problems we residents have been having with the building site thus far so I shall do so below. Environmental Health are now involved with the site but alas this doesn't prevent problems from occurring, just today I was woken at 5.50am by noise and at the moment almost 7pm we have a generator running below our windows pumping water because the contractors for the site (Reach Active) cut through a water main.

Works for the building have caused residents of 30-40 Grafton Way a great deal of misery. These problems were first recorded and sent to our Councillors on 21 May 2014, this is when UCLH began to investigate the utilities for the new building. On the first night they kept us awake until 11pm working below our flats, the next night they worked until 2.30am. The people in charge of the site continue to work outside of the hours stated by the Council, even though they have had a warning from Environmental Health not to. The company who are supposed to liaise between us and the site (Local Dialogue) are of no help to residents, they make excuses for the site, once I was told a contractor was allowed to work until 10pm because he had finished his last job late! I have an email from James McEwan at Local Dialogue dated 9 September 2014 that says they will ensure out of hours work no longer happens and yet it still does.

We ought to have been given secondary glazing to prevent the noise we have suffered for the last year but our requests were totally ignored. Not only did myself and my neighbour ask for this in our original planning response but I also asked local dialogue and [REDACTED] which was an email address we were given on an early letter about the site. I was ignored by all three departments, no response whatsoever. This is a very poor show as it is us residents here who are suffering. I understand the hospital are offering mitigation by way of paying to pedestrianize Alfred Place - a street that is not being bothered by the development!- and yet there is nothing for us who are forced to suffer, not even a letter explaining these decisions.

We still have not had a letter to apologise for the fire on the site on 4th October 2014. In my email at the time I wrote- "...Thursday afternoon, our flats filled up with a terrible toxic smelling oily stench. It was clear it was coming from the site because the workers were standing outside looking up. It was only when the fire engines arrived that I understood they had done something wrong. The stench was impossible to remove as our windows dont open much. After a couple of hours my head was aching terribly and I felt sick. Eventually I went to a friends house because I was worried about what I was breathing in. This was very inconvenient as I had things I needed to be getting on with at home. I should have thought the least the contractors could do would have been to put a letter of apology on our notice board but we have nothing".

I will stop now because these issues as they are far too numerous to mention fully. I very much hope UCLH will begin to be a better neighbour for the residents here than they have been so far.

Yours sincerely,
Jo Hurford
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