

TEMPLAR HOUSE

STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

ASTUDIO

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1. Introduction

This Statement of Community Involvement has been compiled by specialist community consultation group Your Shout, part of Thorncliffe, on behalf of Northwood Investors. This report supports the planning application to redevelop Templar House in High Holborn to provide new high quality homes, retail units and improved office accommodation to the area.

This report details the public consultation the applicant has undertaken in order to inform the evolution of the proposals. Consultation has been carried out in accordance with national and local policies, as set out in the following section of this report, and exceeds the requirements of the London Borough of Camden's current Statement of Community Involvement (adopted in 2011.

Your Shout has also signed up to the Consultation Institute Charter, which sets out the best-practice principles for consultation. A copy of the charter can be found at www.consultationinstitute.org.

The key aims of the pre-application stage of public consultation, which this report documents, were:

- 1. To inform local residents, businesses, councillors and other stakeholders about the aspirations for the site.
- To gain a full understanding of local views of the proposals, engage with the local and wider community throughout the design development stage, and use these views to identify concerns and opportunities, and where possible inform the evolving final proposals.
- 3. To demonstrate how Northwood Investors has responded to the issues raised by the community and stakeholders and identify how changes have been made to the proposals.

In addition, this report demonstrates Northwood Investors' continued commitment towards consultation and engagement throughout the statutory planning process.

2. Policy framework

National Context

Pre-application consultation has long been seen as a positive process and a key part of ensuring local communities have a say in proposed developments. Many large scale planning applications are the subject of extensive pre-application consultation as a matter of course.

However, prior to the Localism Act 2011, there was no legal requirement for applicants to undertake any pre-application consultation with communities nearby.

The Localism Act 2011 introduced "a new requirement for developers to consult local communities before submitting planning applications for certain developments. This gives local people a chance to comment when there is still genuine scope to make changes to proposals... to further strengthen the role of local communities in planning." (A plain English guide to the Localism Act, p.13)

This amends the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and creates several obligations for potential applicants. There is a requirement to carry out pre-application consultation for all "large scale major applications" and applicants must:

- Publicise the proposal and consult with residents in the vicinity of the site concerned.
- Give local people a chance to comment when there is still genuine scope to make changes to proposals.
- Have regard to the local planning authority about local good practice.
- Take account of responses to the consultation.

While the Government has not yet specified what the threshold is for "large scale major applications", it is clear that there should be consultation on all significant developments before a planning application is submitted.

Additionally the Government has used the Localism Act 2011 to clarify the rules on 'predetermination'. Previously in some cases councillors were warned off doing such things as campaigning, talking with constituents, or publicly expressing views on local issues, for fear of being accused of bias or facing legal challenge. The Localism Act 2011 makes it clear that it is proper for councillors to play an active part in discussions on developments prior to submission of a planning application and that they should not be liable to legal challenge as a result. This will help them better represent their constituents and influence the development proposed.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), published in March 2012, says that local planning authorities should work proactively with applicants to secure developments that

improve the economic, social and environmental conditions of the area. The NPPF adds that "early engagement has significant potential to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning application system for all parties." (NPPF, p. 45, 118)

3. Summary of the proposed application

The current site

Templar House is located at 81-87 High Holborn, London, WC1V 6NU. The current building was built in 1959. Due to the low floor-to-floor heights, lack of disabled access and lack of raised access floors it is no longer suitable for the modern office environment. Additionally, there is a growing need within Camden and London in general, for new housing and affordable housing. This site provides an excellent opportunity to improve the appearance of the building, enhance the office provision on site and introduce new residents and life into the area.

The current building is occupied by offices with some retail uses on the ground floor. The building is accessed for pedestrians via High Holborn with service access in Eagle Street.

The proposals

Northwood Investors is working with award-winning architects Astudio to design a high quality building which responds to its location

The proposals will reprovide two buildings one with access via High Holborn and the other with access via Eagle Street. The proposals will ensure the provision of Grade A office space in the building fronting High Holborn, which will result in nearly twice as much employment. In addition the second building accessed via Eagle Street will provide 48 housing units including affordable housing in line with London Borough of Camden's strategic objectives.

The proposals include the demolition and replacement of the existing building. Views of the proposals from Lincoln's Inn, Red Lion Square and Gray's Inn Gardens will be submitted as part of the application. Further details of the proposals can be found in the planning statement submitted as part of this application.

4. The consultation process

The consultation process for this scheme exceeds the requirements of the Council's Statement of Community Involvement and other consultation guidelines. Specifically, we have:

- **1.** Made sure the consultation takes place as early as possible in the design development process, and is therefore "front-loaded".
- 2. Conducted appropriate engagement that fits the community's needs.
- **3.** Conducted an accessible and visible exhibition.
- 4. Used Plain English and adequate response mechanisms.
- **5.** Explained clearly what the scope of the consultation is, and what can and cannot be changed.
- **6.** Analysed the results from the consultation objectively.
- 7. Provided feedback from the local community to the London Borough of Camden.
- 8. Summarised how these responses have affected the proposals.
- **9.** Ensured feed-back, analysis and our response is available to the public and consultation participants.

Pre-application discussions with planning officers

Members of the applicant team have held a number of pre-app meetings with planning officers at the London Borough of Camden, over a nine month period. As a result of these discussions in addition to consultation with the local community, a number of changes have been made to the initial proposals including a reduction in height of the building alongside amendments to the proposed office façade. Further information about this process is included in the Design and Access Statement.

Pre-application discussions with councillors

Members of the applicant team met with ward Councillor Awale Olad on 25 March 2015. At this stage, the proposals included a taller residential building with a higher quantum of housing to be provided.

Councillor Olad was generally supportive of the proposals which at that time would have delivered a higher level of affordable housing. He stressed that he would like any affordable housing to be delivered by the local authority.

He did however express the view that there may be opposition to a very tall building at this location. As outlined below, some community groups did raise concerns regarding the height of the residential building in the initial proposals. As a result of the reduction in height, the number of housing units has been reduced.

Pre-application meetings with stakeholder groups

Prior to the public exhibition, we identified the community groups and other key stakeholders in the area of the application site, and built up a *List of Stakeholders*.

During March and April 2015, we met with a number of these groups to discuss the initial proposals. At each of these meetings, members of the project team, provided an outline of the proposals at this stage and answered questions.

On 19 March 2015, members of the project team met with a representative of the **Chancery Lane Association**. They were supportive of the provision of more residential properties in the area. They were generally supportive of the proposals which they considered to be 'very well thought through'.

On 25 March 2015, members of the project team met with a representative of **Camden Civic Society**. They accepted the basic principles of demolishing Templar House and replacing it with two tall buildings. They made constructive suggestions on how the appearance of the building could be improved. The two key issues they had with the proposals, was the mass of the tall part of the office building, and the jagged silhouette of the residential tower.

On 25 March 2015, members of the project team met with representatives of the **Bloomsbury Conservation Area Advisory Committee**. They were not supportive of the proposals. They felt the development had too much mass and was too tall. In addition they had concerns over the maintenance of the proposed green wall. They did not however object to the principle of demolishing the current building.

On 31 March 2015, members of the project team met with representatives of the **Red Lion Estate Tenants and Residents Association**. They were largely supportive of the proposals and the introduction of residential accommodation to Eagle Street and the possibility to improve the existing servicing arrangements. They wished to see any community benefits associated with the development allocated to improvements to the Red Lion Square Gardens.

On 31 March 2015, members of the project team met with the Chief Executive of **inMidtown**. She was supportive of the proposals and the benefit they would bring to the area. In particular, she was pleased to see more Grade A office space proposed for the area.

On 13 April 2015, members of the project team met with the **Covent Garden Community Association**. They appeared to have mixed views on the proposed height of the building and other aspects of the proposal including materials and sustainability.

Following this round of consultation and bearing in mind the comments expressed by the Bloomsbury Conservation Area Advisory Committee, Covent Garden Community Association and ongoing conversations with officers at the London Borough of Camden, changes were made to the proposals. These changes included the reduction in height of the proposed office and

residential buildings leading to an associated reduction in the number of housing units to be delivered on site.

We will continue to maintain contact with the individuals and groups that we have met and that are listed in the wider stakeholder matrix, as the planning application progresses.

The public exhibition

Following the consultation carried out with local councillors and community groups in March and April 2015, substantial revisions were made to the scheme.

As a result a public exhibition outlining the revised proposals was arranged for 22 and 23 June 2015.

Publicising the consultation

We contacted individuals and community groups to invite them to the public exhibition, offer further information and to make them aware that we were happy to meet with them at a time of their convenience.

The community groups we contacted include the Bloomsbury Association, the Bloomsbury Conservation Area Advisory Committee, Bloomsbury Improvement Group, Camden Civic Society, Camden History Society, Chancery Lane Association, Covent Garden Community Association, Gamages Tenants and Residents Association, Gooch House Tenants and Residents Association, Holborn Community Association, inMidtown, Red Lion Tenants and Residents Association St Alban's Church of England Primary School, St George the Martyr Church of England Primary School and St Joseph's Catholic Primary School.

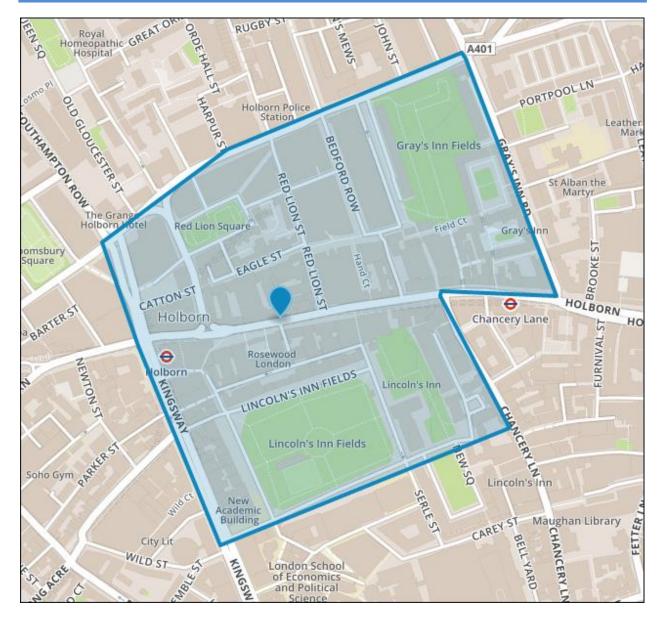
We publicised the consultation to the flats, houses and businesses surrounding the site by distributing an information leaflet. The objective of the leaflet was to invite the local community to the public exhibition, to communicate information about the scheme, and to seek feedback from those not able to attend the public exhibition. We distributed around 1500 copies of the leaflet, which were delivered by our in-house team to ensure correct delivery.

A copy of the leaflet can be found in Appendix 1.

The leaflet contained details of the project website at http://templarhouse.com which included further details of the exhibition. This website has been updated to include copies of the panels displayed at the public exhibition. The website includes a comments form to enable members of the public to give their views on the application.

The website will be updated further if there are any significant changes to the application.

The leaflet advertising the public consultation was delivered to all homes and businesses in the area highlighted in the map below:



Personalised invitations were also sent to the following councillors:

London Borough of Camden councillors representing Holborn and St Pancras ward

- Councillor Julian Fulbrook
- Councillor Awale Olad
- Councillor Sue Vincent

Members of London Borough of Camden's Executive

- Councillor Sarah Hayward
- Councillor Phil Jones

Members of London Borough of Camden's **Development Control Committee**

• Councillor Nasim Ali

- Councillor Danny Beales
- Councillor Roger Freeman
- Councillor Julian Fulbrook (also Ward Member)
- Councillor Adam Harrison
- Councillor Heather Johnson
- Councillor Phil Jones (also Cabinet Member
- Councillor Claire-Louise Leyland
- Councillor Richard Olszewski
- Councillor Lazzaro Pietragnoli
- Councillor Flick Rea
- Councillor Phil Rosenberg
- Councillor Stephen Stark
- Councillor Sue Vincent (also Ward Member)
- Councillor Abi Wood
- Councillor James Yarde

A copy of the email inviting them to the exhibition can be found in Appendix 2.

Promoting the exhibition

In addition to the exhibition leaflet and email sent to local councillors and stakeholder groups, a poster was displayed at the entrance to the exhibition outside the Citadines Hotel, 94-99 High Holborn, WC1V 6LF. A copy of this poster can be found in Appendix 3.

Conducting a visible and accessible public exhibition

The public exhibition took place at the Citadines Hotel, 94-99 High Holborn, WC1V 6LF on 22 June 2015 from 3.00pm to 8.00pm and 23 June 2015 from 11.00am to 3.00pm.

The times and date of the exhibition were chosen to encourage the maximum number of people to attend the exhibition, including those in full-time employment and those with parental responsibilities. We ensured the exhibition date did not fall on any locally observed religious or other festivals.

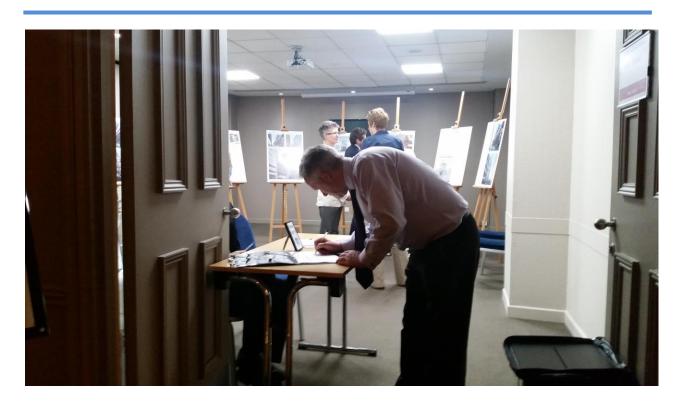
The venue was accessible to people with limited mobility. Play materials were available at the exhibition for young children. Posters were placed at the entrance of the exhibition adjacent to the footpath in High Holborn so people could easily find it. A copy of this poster can be found in Appendix 3 and in the photograph overleaf.



Details of the site and the scheme proposals were detailed on eight exhibition panels. These panels can be found in appendix 4.

Visitors were encouraged to fill out a questionnaire during the public exhibition and some attendees also took the form away with them to fill in at home and return via Freepost. Copies of this questionnaire can be found in appendix 5.







Using appropriate response channels

We had, and continue to maintain, several response mechanisms for the local community and stakeholders to give their feedback and comments about the scheme, including:

- 1. A Freephone telephone hotline, staffed during office hours 0800 458 6976
- 2. A bespoke email address templarhouse@yourshout.org
- 3. A Freepost address to receive letters with comments on the proposals.
- **4.** Members of the development team were on hand during the exhibition to answer detailed questions. Team members were badges to identify them from consultees.

The feedback form contained information on how the responses provided would be used, which read as follows:

"Information from this consultation will be held by Your Shout and Northwood Investors. Individual and collective responses, including your name and address details, may be given to the London Borough of Camden as part of the planning application."

Quantitative and qualitative response mechanisms

The consultation included questions which allowed us to assess the response in a quantitative (numerical) way.

The qualitative responses were gathered from listening to individuals and groups in meetings, on the Freephone hotline, and at the public exhibition.

The feedback form asked for written comments about the scheme, and the email service also gave an opportunity for people to send in written comments.

The comments have been recorded and analysed objectively by team members from Your Shout.

Feeding-back to participants and the wider community, and opportunities for continuing involvement

One of the prime objectives of this Statement of Community Involvement is to help record individual and collective responses to the proposals and how these responses have affected our proposals.

This report also allows us to feed back this information, in a more readily digestible form to the local community, respondents, other stakeholders and councillors.

This Statement of Community Involvement will be made available, alongside other planning documents, as part of the planning submission to the London Borough of Camden.

The Freephone, Freepost, and dedicated email address will all be maintained until the planning application is determined by the local planning authority.

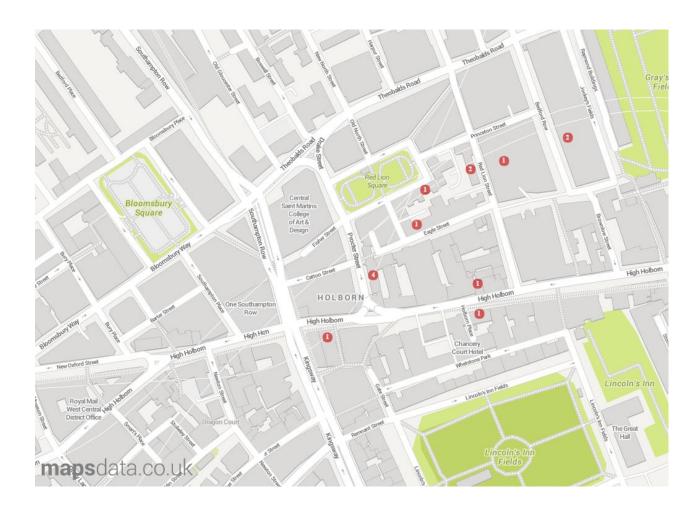
We remain committed to keeping in touch with local groups, individuals and all those that have participated throughout this consultation exercise. We will be available to meet consultees again as appropriate.

5. Response to the consultation

Quantitative response

23 people attended the exhibition of which 14 gave an address within the consultation area.

We have put together a map, from mapsdata.co.uk, to show the approximate locations of the addresses given by people who attended the exhibition. 9 attendees either did not supply an address or supplied an address outside of the London Borough of Camden.

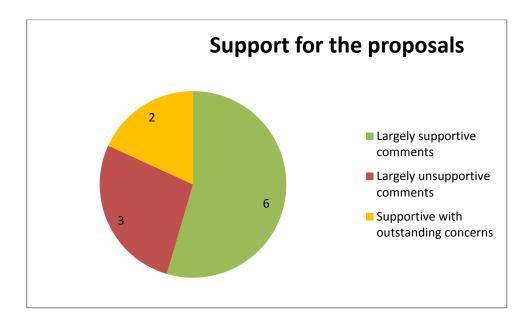


11 attendees provided feedback at the exhibition on the proposals, and in addition, one attendee who supplied comments at the exhibition, emailed through additional comments following the exhibition.

Of the 11 attendees who provided comments, 6 attendees including the Chief Executive of inMidtown and the Secretary of the Red Lion Tenants and Residents Association supported the proposals. 2 attendees including the Chair of the Red Lion Tenants and Residents Association

supported the overall principle of the proposals but raised outstanding concerns which they wished to see addressed. 3 attendees registered their opposition to the proposals.

An overview of the views of the attendees that provided comments is provided below.



The Chair of the Bloomsbury Conservation Area Advisory Committee emailed his apologies on the day of the exhibition. He has been provided with copies of the exhibition panels to share with his members.

Qualitative response

People who attended the exhibition, recipients of the leaflet and other local residents had the opportunity to provide qualitative responses to our consultation. These responses have been collected and collated and this will continue throughout the application process. The main points raised with members of the project team and on the feedback forms are outlined below, along with a response from the applicant where appropriate.

LOCAL EDUCATION PROVISION

Some consultees were concerned that local schools and other facilities would struggle to cope with an influx of new residents.

"The only concern that I have is that I have is that of schools provision if the young families move in, as the area doesn't have an abundance of primary educational facilities and little space to expand and virtually no secondary education provision."

Response – If planning permission is granted then the applicant will be required to make a financial contribution towards local community infrastructure and this could be used by the London Borough of Camden towards education provisions.

MOVING THE BUILDING FOOTPRINT TO THE NORTH

Two local residents raised concerns regarding the turning circles required by delivery vehicles.

"I am concerned that the present design is outside the footprint of the present building. Therefore nearer to Beckley (in Eagle Street) and restricting space for traffic in the road."

Response – We have amended the design to ensure the new footprint does not encroach into the street level, thereby maintaining the same traffic movement as is currently enjoyed.

HEIGHT OF THE PROPOSED BUILDING

Some local residents were concerned about the height of the proposed building.

"It is higher than the previous building and will block light."

Response – The proposed height of the building has been designed with due consideration for neighbouring properties. A comprehensive daylight and sunlight assessment has therefore been undertaken to ensure that the proposed new building will not be detrimental to light levels within surrounding properties.

POSITION OF PLANT ON THE ROOF

Two local residents raised concerns regarding the position of the plant on the roof.

"Can the plant on the roof of Eagle Street be placed on the High Holborn side?"

Response - The plant on the roof will be completely sealed within the building envelope and will not be viewable from Eagle Street.

Comments supporting the proposals

The following comments demonstrate the support that was registered by attendees at the exhibition:

"A well thought out proposal. Which will enhance the local area and bring life to an area which it is lacking after office hours."

"Interesting redevelopment proposal for a building that could offer more to the local area and community by performing harder. With TFL Consolidating and moving out the opportunity to maximise both commercial office accommodation and residential is great for vibrancy; economic development; employment; ground floor tenant mix."

"The proposal for flats and office accommodation is great. The new building if it looks like its concept pictures will be a real asset to the area and it will look fantastic."

"An interesting and attractive development and the housing on Eagle Street is to be welcomed."

"Great designs which would definitely improve the look and feel of the area."

"I was fortunate to have the concept and design of the building explained to me by the architect. I was impressed by the design approach which will see an interesting new elevation in High Holborn. I was impressed by the individuality of the design especially the relief that will result from the chamfering of some edges on the front elevation. The materials were high quality and well-chosen. I especially like the white ceramic of the rear elevation."

6. Summary and continued consultation

Northwood Investors has undertaken public consultation to ensure local stakeholders have had an opportunity to comment on the emerging proposals in advance of submission.

A list of key stakeholders has been put together to ensure that all interested parties have been kept informed of the plans and given a chance to ask questions and give feedback. This list included, but was not limited to, stakeholder groups that were suggested by council planning officers. Where information has been requested, it has been supplied in an easy to understand way.

Northwood Investors held a public exhibition of the proposals on 22 and 23 June 2015 at Citadines Hotel, 94-99 High Holborn, WC1V 6LF. The public exhibition was well advertised with the delivery of around 1500 information leaflets to the local area. Key stakeholders and councillors were notified with a personal invitation. The public exhibition consisted of eight panels that gave a clear indication of the proposals. Members of the applicant's professional team were in attendance to answer any questions. A wide variety of ways to respond to the public consultation were available. Feedback could be given by using the Freephone number, a Freepost address, and a dedicated email address.

The key local stakeholders and councillors were contacted prior to the public exhibition and have been given the chance to engage since. The applicant also held a number of meetings with stakeholder groups and one of the ward councillors at an early stage in the design process.

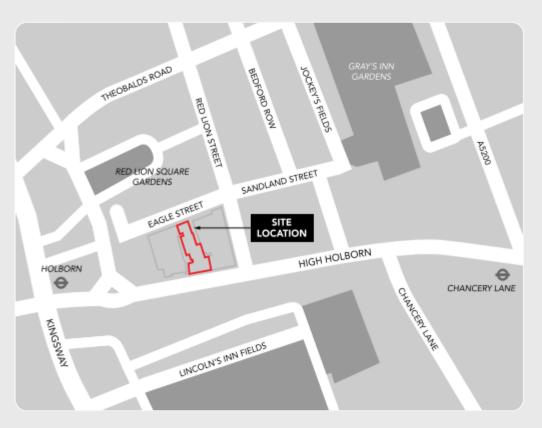
This Statement of Community Involvement fully demonstrates Northwood Investors' commitment to thorough and meaningful public consultation and exceeds the requirements set out by the local planning authority. The submission of the planning application does not mark the end of this consultation and Northwood Investors will continue to meet with local groups and individuals as appropriate throughout this process.



July 2015

Appendix 1 – Leaflet inviting residents and other stakeholders to public exhibition

REDEVELOPING TEMPLAR HOUSE PUBLIC EXHIBITION



Northwood Investors will shortly be applying to the London Borough of Camden for permission to redevelop Templar House at 81-87 High Holborn, WC1V 6NU.

Prior to the submission of a planning application, we are keen to hear your views on the future regeneration of the site. We will shortly be holding an exhibition to share our proposals. We hope that you will be able to attend and meet our team. Details of the exhibition are overleaf.

If you are unable to come, our website templarhouse.com will be kept updated with the latest news.

Appendix 2 – Email to councillors and stakeholder groups

Dear Councillor

Northwood Investors is pleased to invite you to a public exhibition to view their proposals to redevelop Templar House at 81-87 High Holborn. The leaflet which is being delivered to local residents and businesses is attached for your information.

The proposal would provide new homes, new retail uses and improved office accommodation. Northwood Investors is working with award-winning architects Astudio to design a high quality building which responds to its location.

We would like to share our plans with you and listen to your views regarding the proposals, prior to submitting a planning application to the London Borough of Camden. We very much hope that you will be able to visit the exhibition – which will be held at:

Citadines Hotel, 94-99 High Holborn, WC1V 6LF on Monday 22nd June from 3pm to 8pm and Tuesday 23rd June from 11am to 3pm

If you are unable to come along but would like more information, please let us know. You can reply to this email or call 0800 458 6976. We are also very happy to arrange a briefing regarding the proposals at a time of your convenience.

Kind regards

Daniel

Daniel Francis

Your Shout

T 0800 458 6976 yourshout.com

Email disclaimer



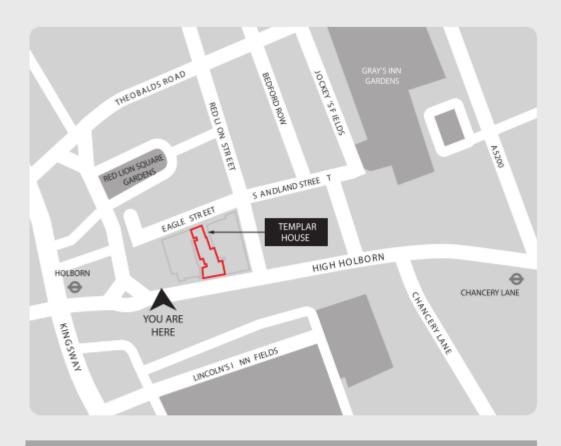
Appendix 3 – poster displayed in High Holborn outside the public exhibition

REDEVELOPING TEMPLAR HOUSE

PUBLIC EXHIBITION TODAY

MON 22ND JUNE 3.00pm - 8.00pm TUES 23RD JUNE 11.00pm - 3.00pm

CITADINES HOTEL, 94-99 HIGH HOLBORN



If you are unable to come, our website templarhouse.com will be kept updated with the latest news.

Appendix 4 – Exhibition panels

WELCOME

Thank you for taking the time to come and visit this public exhibition.

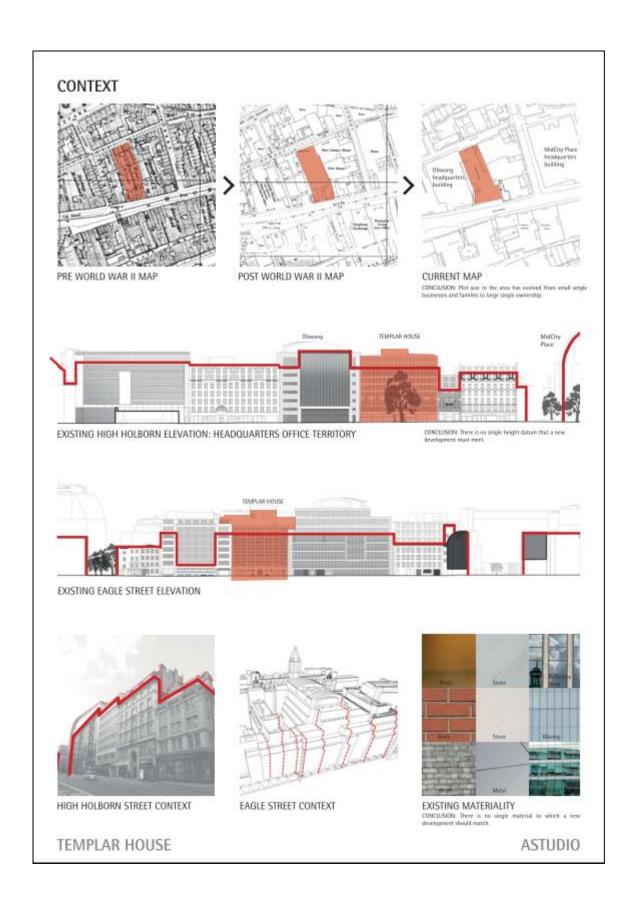
We are holding these exhibitions to provide the local community with the opportunity to view our proposals for the redevelopment of Templar House and ask any questions you may have about the proposals.

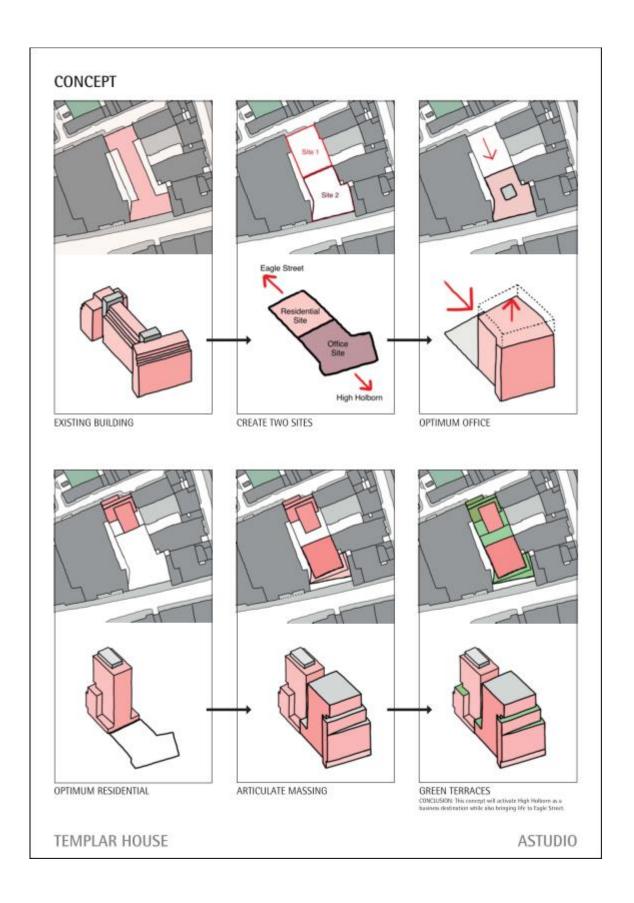
Please take your time to view the exhibition boards; there are a number of project team members on hand should you have any questions. At the end of the exhibition there is the opportunity for you to fill in a feedback form to leave your views and opinions on what you have seen.





TEMPLAR HOUSE ASTU





FINAL PROPOSAL







RESIDENTIAL ON EAGLE STREET



HIGH HOLBORN VIEW FROM THE WEST

TEMPLAR HOUSE ASTUDIO

FINAL PROPOSAL



PROPOSED HIGH HOLBORN ELEVATION

- THE DIFFICE DELIVERS:

 1. Over 800 jobs

 2. Grade A Readquarters office space

 3. High quality public realm improvements



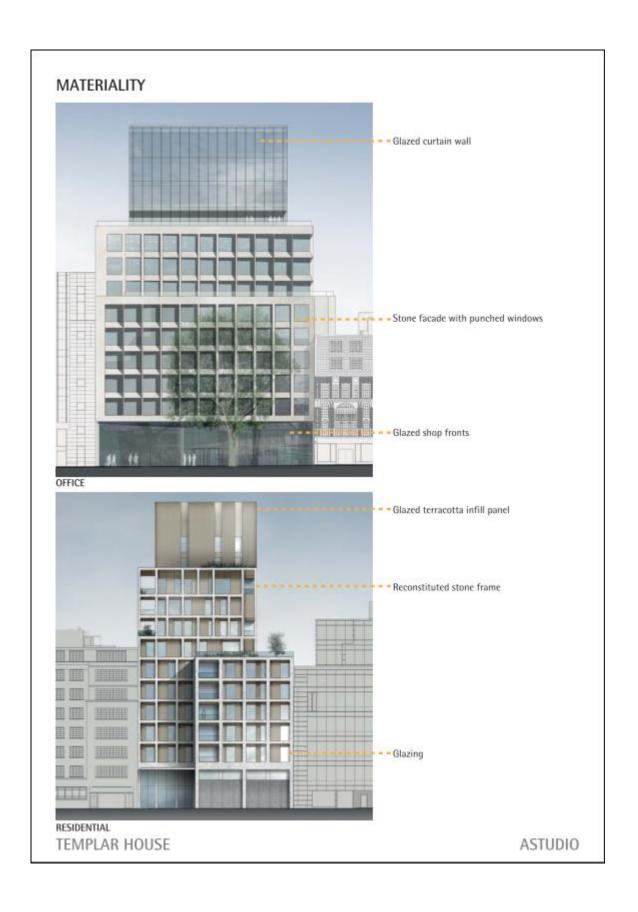
PROPOSED EAGLE STREET ELEVATION

- THE RESIDENTIAL DELIVERS: 1, 40 new hornes 2. A beautiful building for Landon. 1. Intermediate beauing on site

TEMPLAR HOUSE

ASTUDIO





THANK YOU

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THE EXHIBITION TODAY.

Before we submit a planning application, we want to hear your comments about the proposals for the site.

Feel free to fill in the forms on the tables and return them to the project team here or via the Freepost address. If you have any further questions or feedback on the proposals, please don't hesitate to contact us.

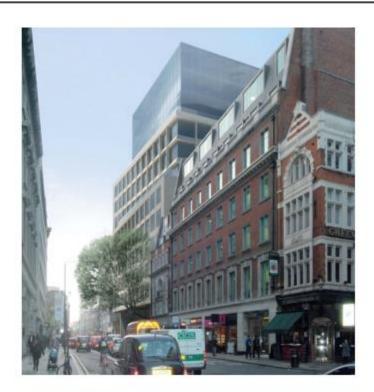
You can also visit our website at www. templarhouse.com for up to date information as the project progresses.

Feedback can be provided by:

- Writing to:
 FREEPOST RTGB-KBZB-ZSKJ
 Templar House Your Shout
 1-45 Durham Street
 London, SE11 5JH
- · Filling in the comment cards
- Calling Your Shout on 0800 458 6976
- E-mailing: templarhouse@yourshout.org
- Visiting our website at www.templarhouse.com

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- You comments and feedback will be considered
- Following this consultation, the proposals will be finalised into a planning application and submitted to the London Borough of Camden. The London Borough of Camden will then undertake its own statutory consultation on the application.
- The planning application will be determined by the London Borough of Camden.





TEMPLAR HOUSE

ASTUDIO

Appendix 5 – Feedback form available at the public exhibition

Westminster Business Square, London, SE11 5JH.

Templar House Feedback Form Thank you for attending our public exhibition. Please complete this feedback form and drop in the box provided. Email: Telephone: Comments If you would like to take this away there is no need for a stamp. Please return the form to the following Freepost address: Templar House, FREEPOST RTGB-KBZB-ZSKJ, Your Shout, W20,

Information from this consultation will be held by Your Shout and Northwood Investors. Individual and collective responses, including your name and address details, may be given to the London Borough of Camden as part of the planning application.

End of Appendices