

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Consultees Addr:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2015/4402/P	Jonathan Crow	4 Stone Buildings Lincoln's Inn London WC2A 3XT	28/08/2015 08:05:40	OBJ	<p>Objection to Applications by Lincoln's Inn 2015/4408/P 'Library extension' 2015/4404/P 'Education centre' 2015/4402/P 'Works to the Great Hall'</p> <p>1. This is an objection to the above applications. The proposed works are unnecessary and would cause substantial harm both to the setting of Grade II* listed buildings, and to the Conservation Area to which the existing buildings make a positive contribution.</p> <p>2. I am a barrister member and Bencher of Lincoln's Inn. I work in the Inn, and have done so all my working life. I was on the Inn's Buildings Committee for several years. I am devoted to the Inn and to its legal and physical heritage. It is the responsibility of any generation to preserve and improve its inheritance for future generations. The Inn's current proposals do neither. On the contrary, they would significantly diminish the existing qualities of the Inn.</p> <p>3. Lincoln's Inn is an oasis of fine architecture and green spaces, surrounded by the towering modern office developments and busy traffic along Holborn, Kingsway and Fetter Lane. In particular, the Library and Great Hall are listed Grade II *. They make an important contribution to the charm of the whole Inn, which is important both from a historical perspective and also for the ambience it offers to those working in or near the Inn, and to the many visitors they attract from outside.</p> <p>4. The Inn's proposals would cause significant harm:</p> <p>a. They would involve the construction of very substantial and utterly incongruous structures immediately adjacent to the Library and the Great Hall, which are the most important and beautiful collegiate buildings in the Inn.</p> <p>b. They would intrude upon and detract significantly from the garden setting.</p> <p>c. Their design is poor.</p> <p>d. They would involve the demolition of an existing building (the Under Treasurer's House) which currently makes a sympathetic contribution to the whole setting.</p> <p>e. No exceptional circumstances justify the proposals. There cannot be said to be a "clear and convincing justification" (NPPF 132). There are no "substantial public benefits" (NPPF 133). The ordinary needs of educational and professional institutions can hardly ever be regarded as exceptional in this area because such institutions are commonplace, and there is also an abundance of accommodation within and immediately outside the Inn without the need for any new structures.</p> <p>f. The pre-application consultation was exiguous. It is also a matter of concern that the Inn chose to lodge these applications in early August, in the middle of the holiday season, thereby minimising the likelihood of objections.</p>