

59 Birkenhead Street,
London
WC1H 8BB

25th October 2015

Dear Mr Dawson,

r.e. Planning application number 2015/5516/P

I am writing on behalf of my fiancée Lina Sherimova and myself Edward Swales to formally object to the above planning application to install cycle hire docking stations in front of our home. We own and live in 59 Birkenhead Street which will be directly and negatively impacted by the proposed application.

We strongly object to the proposed installation on the following grounds:

Firstly, it is proposed to place the docking stations directly in front of our house – this would have a number of negative impacts on our rights not least including privacy, quiet enjoyment and peace as a result of having people directly looking into our bedroom windows and front rooms due to the perpendicular front facing nature of the docking stations. The considerable banging and crashing of cycles into the docking station day and night will increase noise pollution and disturbance to a level which is simply unacceptable.

Secondly, I have a disabled mother (disabled badge number 1DE29G 0 0154Y1216) who needs to access our front door quickly and the proposed scheme will stop her from doing this due to the application including for all non-resident parking bays on Birkenhead Street being proposed to be taken out of action and more importantly on the western side of the carriage way which is where our residence is located. The proposed docking stations will stop her from getting easy access to our property by preventing her from stopping her car outside our house.

Thirdly, the proposed scheme includes the erection of a 2.4m high post directly in front of our door and in the direct line of sight from our front rooms which will negatively impact our view of the listed properties in front of our house and will be a negative contribution to the the conservation area and listed buildings on the street.

Fourthly, the proposed installation will increase parking pressures in the street which is already short of parking both for residents and non-residents. There is already insufficient parking on Birkenhead Street which will be exacerbated once the development on St Chad's street is completed – the inclusion of additional docking stations at the expense of parking spaces will significantly increase congestion and negatively impact local residents.

Fifthly, there are already cycle docking stations in the very close vicinity, just some 100m away on St Chad's street with 23 docking stations and close by on Belgrove Street with a further 21 docking stations. Doubling the number of docking stations on the same one-way street is excessive. If further stations are required then there are multiple locations close to the station which are suitable, for instance the bottom of Crestfield Street next to McDonalds which is closer to the exit of

the underpass and therefore a safer place for people to access bicycles as they would not need to cross the busy road to get to them.

Sixthly, the location is simply inappropriate. By this statement, we specifically mean the location of the western side of Birkenhead Street. The pavement has already been moved out on the eastern side and so if stations must be installed then the eastern side would be more appropriate and safer for the persons accessing the cycles due to the protection from turning traffic created by the enlarged pavement on the corner of the eastern side of Birkenhead Street. Installation on the western side will open-up persons accessing cycles to unnecessary risk from turning traffic. A much better location would be to install the cycles on the pedestrianised part of St Chad's street which would then mean that there would be no impact on parking, no impact on congestion and the docking stations could be located out of the way of traffic and in an area better suited to the cycles which on an established cycle route. The planning, design and access statement for the docking stations shows in many areas the installation of the docking stations in paved and pedestrian areas, notably the front cover, pages 1, 2, 7 & 10. I have included a photo of the pedestrian area of St Chad's street which clearly shows a layby which is well suited to the proposed docking stations. You will also see from the photos that all of the example docking stations are in commercial areas. It is clear that commercial areas are better suited to such noise inducing equipment rather than directly in front of resident's homes.

Finally, in addition the above specific objections to the proposed docking stations on Birkenhead Street, we are wholly opposed to them directly in front of our house. It shows a complete disregard for local residents, will increase noise pollution which will directly impact us and will reduce the safety of users by placing them directly in the carriage way where much better locations are available close by. The number of docking stations is also excessive, given that there are already in excess of 20 available cycles in just 100 meters distance away. With this in mind we fervently believe that to include 27 docking stations in the proposed application is excessive. A number in the region of 20 which is more in keeping with previous applications would be both more suitable and also more fair to local residents who already have had parking reduced by the docking stations just around the corner.

If you would like to visit our property to see the significant negative impact this application will have, please don't hesitate to contact me on 07905 516 159. In the meantime, I look forward to your response and do hope that sense will prevail in the interest of local residents such that the location of these docking stations be moved and in any case the number allowed to be significantly reduced.

Yours faithfully,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Edward Swales & Lina Sherimova.

Edward Swales & Lina Sherimova



