



To: The Head of Planning,

Planning Department

Camden Council,

- Application Number 2015/5898/P
- Site Address **Public Carriageway outside Witley Court Coram Street London WC1N 1HD**
- Application Type Full Planning Permission
- Development Type **Commercial Minor Alterations**
- Installation on the carriageway on the northern side of Coram Street near to the junction with Woburn Place of a Cycle Hire docking station, containing a maximum of 30 docking points for scheme cycles plus a terminal.

I live in Russell Court which is the large block of flats opposite the proposed site for the cycle docking station.

I am concerned about this application for a number of reasons - see below - and would ask the Planning Committee to consider whether there are alternative locations in the local area which would be preferable, in particular that are not immediately outside a residential block of flats and also have a larger space available for the bicycles /stands.

The application states that Coram Street "carries a moderate level of vehicular traffic and has a moderate footfall". I would question the former - as a cyclist I am very aware that it is quite heavily used with much traffic, including taxis, turning into Coram Street from Woburn Place (both directions). In addition, I presume that there is at least a risk that it will become significantly busier now that there is a new traffic arrangement in Tavistock Place.

I note suggestions in a couple of comments on this planning application that the docking station be sited on the south side of Coram Street. And in particular that it go on the former garage forecourt outside Russell Court. Please note in relation to this (and particularly also as the application states that the proposed site is "opposite a car park" ) that recently a 'Change of Use' planning application (2015/2811/P ) has been approved for the NCP car-park beneath Russell Court to be converted into a self-storage facility. One of the conditions imposed was that the forecourt area be landscaped to contribute "to the visual amenity and character of the area in accordance with the requirements of policy ...".

In view of that and as we are in a Conservation Area, I do question whether the "docking station would sit well within the street and would not visually clutter the streetscene".

It is likely that commercial and private vehicles manoeuvring into the new self-storage facility will cause some disruption to that end of Coram Street, making it I suggest less safe as a location for a cycle docking station. In addition, residents of Russell Court are already concerned about the potential for disturbances caused by customers of the self-storage facility. I feel that a cycle docking station in close proximity will increase the level of disturbance, particularly as it will potentially be in use throughout the night and may in the Summer lead to people congregating around the docking station and also in the newly landscaped area outside Russell Court. Having used the cycle hire facilities elsewhere I am aware that returning a hire bike to the docking station can be quite noisy and could easily disturb residents in the flats nearby at night.

I should add that I have been a cyclist in London for years, using both my own bike and the hire bikes, and am very much in favour of encouraging an increase in the level of cycling in London. But I feel that in this case, it is not an ideal site - in that it is likely to cause disturbance to residents and also not be a safe location for cyclists. Perhaps on one of the wider pavements around Russell Square would be safer and less likely to disturb residents?