

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Consultees Addr:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2015/6955/P	Stewart M Aitken	174 Camden Road Camden Town London NW1 9HJ	27/01/2016 22:56:15	OBJEMPER	<p>I write to object to the redevelopment of the Gray's Inn Road - Mount Pleasant site submitted by Dukelease, as one of the current occupiers of the "Brainyard" complex. Reading the brief notes provided online by Dukeslease, as well as their more detailed plans placed at the reception of Panther House, it is the companies assertion that the redevelopment of the site will add positively to the local area, as well as suggesting that the buildings have been allowed to fall into some state of disrepair. On the second point I personally am rather offended - Panther House and Brainyard house tens of small to medium businesses, there are approximately 15 in the Brainyard alone. We take great pride in our home from home, and Hare & Humphries have always looked after the space well, attending to all necessary concerns with professional courtesy. These old buildings have great character, and as someone who has known the borough for nearly two decades, reading the sentence "the proposal aims to retain as much as possible of the existing fabric" leaves me concerned for the future of these spaces - "aim" is not a pledge to keep, but merely a gesture or acknowledgement of a goal that may not be ultimately desired by the developers. More importantly, I struggle to see how a company that refers to Bloomsbury as "Midtown" (this literally DOES NOT EXIST) can think that 13 luxury flats + office and retail units will better the diversity that already exists in our building alone. Hare & Humphries, City Pumps, Harry Herbert the tailors and CNTL couriers are all thriving local companies. Our music studio itself (one of the many art spaces in the building) has provided a home to members of Primal Scream, Florence & the Machine, Archie Bronson and The Duke Spirit (all international touring groups) as well as artists based in WC1. Andrews Restaurant is one of the last "old school" cafes in this part of town! We all know that London is suffering badly from a removal of local businesses run by Londoners to be replaced by faceless companies with no relation to the immediate environment - how will this be any different to countless other redevelopments across the city? Why remove local business for retail when there are great shopping facilities on Lambs Conduit St or at the Brunswick Centre?</p> <p>Cities change, I realize and embrace this idea - also, I've always been realistic that we may lose our workspace someday BUT can anyone take any pride in evicting a large body of unique local industry whilst potentially savaging fine old buildings to erect only THIRTEEN homes (that we mere mortals of Camden can only dream of living in) and some kind of office - retail - restaurant complex endlessly replicated all over this increasing anonymous capital of ours?</p>
2015/6955/P	david conaghan	81 gray's inn buildings	27/01/2016 15:44:46	COMMNT	we don't need a new A1 shop. Andrew's cafe should be secure. it has served me for three decades.