

Gordon Mansions Residents Association

Please reply to:



Regeneration and Planning, Development Management,
London Borough of Camden, Camden Town Hall, Argyle Street,
London WC1H 8ND.

4th May 2016

For the attention of John Diver, Planning Officer. Sent by email to: planning@camden.gov.uk

Dear John Diver,

Re: Heals Building (Planet Organic), 22 Torrington Place, London WC1E 7HJ:

Replacement illuminated fascia sign and projecting sign. Retention of existing totem sign to Side.

Planning Application ref: 2016/1748/L

I am writing on behalf of Gordon Mansions Residents Association (GMRA), and especially for residents whose flats overlook Torrington Place. I myself live in one of the flats overlooking Torrington Place in the first block whose flats are nearest to this shopfront of Planet Organic. The first block of Gordon Mansions is diagonally opposite 22 Torrington Place.

Although the address for this application is given as the Heal's Building, this shopfront is for the separate retail unit/shop Planet Organic which forms part of the "Heals Building" facing onto Torrington Place.

This would appear to be a retrospective application, as the signage appears to have been carried out already recently. Nonetheless, I wish to object on the grounds of light pollution.

- (1). The Fitzrovia Area Action Plan, Principle 9, states that the Council will have particular regard to, amongst other things, light pollution, to prevent cumulative harm to residential amenity, in order to protect residential amenity.

The lighting of this signage is particularly white and bright. We already suffer from light pollution at night time from various other sources in Torrington Place.

Next to this shop premises, the Heal's office building (whose address is also, confusingly No. 22), the recently built canopy and reception area have very bright white light which spills out. Nonetheless, although open 24 hours a day, the lighting of this canopy and the reception area are turned down to low in late evening/night time, which greatly helps in term so light pollution.

By contrast, Planet Organic's brightly-lit signs are on all night. In addition, all the shop's very bright internal lighting is also on all late evening and nighttime (after closing), with the light spilling out into the street.

Thus, we would ask that there is a Condition, that the signage (and the internal shop lighting) is turned down and/off after closing time, from say 11.00pm to 7.00am.

- (2). I would also like to point out that Planet Organic's contractors carried out this signage/shop fitting with noisy work after permitted hours, including late evening and midnight, greatly disturbing the nearby flats. In the past, previous works have also similarly ignored permitted hours, and would ask that Planet Organic are strongly reminded of the rules for noisy works.

Yours sincerely,

Chair, On behalf of Gordon Mansions Residents Association.