



Dear Zenab,

We are writing on behalf of the Camden Town CAAC.

We strongly object to this proposal.

The Camden Town Methodist Church was built for the Methodists in 1889 by the architects T & W. Stone. It is described in the Buildings of England ( London 4: North) as 'decent, debased classical'.

The worship space occupying the ground and first floor levels is a fine interior with its organ and encircling gallery. Its North entrance - a five bay, elevation of two storeys and double pediment is an elegant design and certainly enhances Plender Street.

Consequently we object strongly to the proposed insertion of the four floors for a proposed 'hotel'. as well as the raising of the roof which will be ugly and top heavy. The proposed entrance door is also entirely out of keeping with the classical elevation.

The Chapel is at present completely intact but will be wrecked by the present proposal.

We appreciate that the Chapel is in poor condition but we are concerned that the Methodist Church has not considered approaching the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant. It should also explore other avenues for its future use. For example, There is an unsatisfied need for public performance space in Camden Town. The present worship space and gallery in the Chapel seats 600 people and would make an ideal venue for concerts, performances and talks of every kind. Union Chapel in Islington was saved some years ago and now manages to hold traditional services as well as concerts of every kind. It is enormously popular.

Sadly the Camden Town Methodist Church is not listed due to the fact that Historic England only listed Koko on Camden High Street as well as the residential terraces in 1974.. They have not reviewed the area since.

Another point, the Chapel is locked at present which has prevented several people being able to visit its interior to comment on this proposal. I hope you will manage to gain access to the building as we feel that this case is the most important one we have had to deal with. The architects Manalo & White should be able to let you in. Their phone number is 020 72654945.

Yours sincerely,

Gordon Macqueen & Margaret Richardson, Co-Chairs of the Camden Town CAAC,  
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