Subject: South Hampstead Synagogue – Planning application **ref no 2016/4989/P** November 30/2016

Please log the following objections:

Importantly, we believe the existence of the proposed second floor terrace on the Eton Villas frontage poses an unquantifiable risk to security for both local residents and the users of the synagogue. Leaving a hole in the centre of the building will be a magnet for miscreants, a target for terrorists. What is to stop anyone lobbing-in objects or dropping things in by drone? When the current plans were initially drawn up, the world was a safer place. Terrorist attacks are now increasingly sophisticated. We urge Camden Planning to withdraw permission for this open roof and to insist instead on a secure roof for the safety of everyone. To do otherwise is tempting fate.

Regarding these so-called Minor Material Amendments, we do not believe the increase in height of the lift overrun by 1.085m on the Eton Road frontage or of the increase in height of the proposed parapet by 0.5m on the Eton Villas frontage and to the rear of the new building can be classified as merely minor – far from it. These increases on an already bulky building, three times the size of the existing one, are considerable and will increase its negative impact and overshadowing of the Grade 2 listed buildings surrounding it.

What is more, no attempt has been made to give an honest description of this increase in size as no accurate drawings have been provided delineating these proposed differences over those already agreed. This is misleading and the same goes for the issues with loss of daylight as again, no material evidence is available for our viewing. We have no details of the calculations or diagrams of the proposed changes to the elevations in respect of the raised lift overrun on Provost Court and the raised parapet on Eton Villas properties, nor is the impact on 23 Eton Villas clear and the same goes for the further reduction in daylight.

Regarding the forecourt, instead of being used for deliveries and servicing of the building as promised, the new proposals to utilise this area for the erection of structures during festivals and as a play area will mean suspension of vehicular access which will push extra traffic into the neighbouring roads, blocking driveways and limiting residents' parking and increasing noise and inconvenience to the neighbourhood. This should not be allowed as it contravenes the Council's development policies which aim to "protect quality of life by only granting permission for development that does not cause harm to amenity' of occupiers and neighbours (DP 26), "

Turning the forecourt, supposedly designated for storage, waste, delivery access and bicycle & disability car parking into a play area in a residential area is not appropriate. Sunday is the Sabbath in this country and for most people the day of rest. Noise should not be permitted before 12.30 and should cease by 6pm and the forecourt's correct usage as a servicing area should not be suspended as this would increase disturbance in the area.

We were originally told the purpose of this building was to enlarge the shul but in fact these latest proposals show a reduction in the size of the actual area of worship and instead reflect an increase in the space devoted to classrooms and catering. This is not supposed to be a school yet it seems to be turning into one with these demands for play areas and so many classrooms.

If, in spite of valid concerns about the safety aspects of having no roof on the building, the 2nd floor terrace does go ahead, its proposed usage should be very carefully controlled. Plans to use this as a play space for the crèche/nursery and for religious festivals and social activities will create huge problems in relation to noise and light pollution. The Council must impose and ensure adherence to stringent controls over the hours of usage in order to ensure resident's rights to a peaceful existence are not infringed.

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