

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Consultees Addr:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2016/7062/P	Feargal Mooney	Hostelworld Services Ltd High Holborn House 52-54 High Holborn London WC1V 6RL	14/02/2017 17:15:20	OBJ	<p>We own and operate a number of OTA"s in the budget accommodation sector including Hostelworld.com, Hostelbookers.com and Hostels.com and we have been in the hostel industry for over 15 years, as a technology company who match willing customers to hostels and budget accommodation providers worldwide.</p> <p>Our objection to this application is on the basis that hostels should be protected for their unique contribution to the visitor accommodation sector, one of the fastest growing in the world, but also the contribution to the wider community where a hostel is located.</p> <p>London is a market that has seen positive growth in visitor numbers over several years without large increases in the supply of beds. Other key European cities including Paris, Amsterdam, Berlin and Rome have seen growth in both the larger chains entering the market, but also the smaller independent operators. Amsterdam as an example has added just over 2,000 beds in the past eighteen months.</p> <p>Contrary to this trend, London has had only one new large hostel occupying a purpose built building which is Wombats, and a few new smaller operators leading to a relatively low addition of beds comparative to other European cities.</p> <p>To lose a Hostel such as Astor Museum in such a key location in Central London would certainly be bad for those looking for affordable accommodation, but would also send entirely the wrong message to the youth travel sector and accommodation providers in London, consistently ranked as one of the most visited cities in the World.</p> <p>Whilst the emergence of key brand names in the hostel space in recent years, such as St. Christophers, Wombats, Meininger and Generator has increased the visibility of hostels to certain sectors of the market that might not have considered it before, the vast majority of beds available in any given city are still from small independent operators such as Astor Museum. It would be misguided to assume that were many hostels like this to close, that larger brands would quickly fill the gap.</p> <p>It is also worth noting that different size hostels cater to different types of clientele. In our experience, certain customers want the larger, branded operators whilst other segments prefer the smaller, independent operators and there is equal room in the market for both these types of Operators.</p> <p>I believe that allowing Astor Museum to close down and be turned into flats would be bad for the hostel industry, bad for visitors to London through reduction in affordable accommodation in central areas and also bad for the local economy and community. I urge you to reject the application.</p> <p>Yours sincerely,</p> <p>Feargal Mooney CEO Hostelworld Group plc</p>

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2016/7062/P	Matthew Peters	Flat 21 crondall court London	14/02/2017 17:07:54	OBJ	(Also sent by Letter) I strongly oppose this development. The Astor hostel provides a much greater service to the community then the proposed flats ever will. The hostel is in a perfect location for students doing short term courses to carry out research in the nearby museums. The hostel also promotes cultural diversity in London providing both affordable accommodation and jobs for people of any nationality. As a former guest at Astor, I think it would a real shame to see the hostel replaced for flats.
2016/7062/P	Matthew Peters	Flat 21 crondall court London	14/02/2017 17:07:52	OBJ	
2016/7062/P	Meg	16 Alpha house, 1 Ashbridge street NW8 8AF	14/02/2017 16:28:10	OBJ	I stayed many times in this hostel, and it is a safe and great location for people to stay before and after job interviews, as it is hard to find a cheap place to stay particularly in the city centre. Thanks to Astor Hostels for giving me a chance to live and work for them when I arrived in London, and gave me enough experience. I am now living in London for over 3 years, and am working for a important company. I could have never accomplished anything without Astor Hostels.
2016/7062/P	Lea Caluori	Quellenweg 19	15/02/2017 00:21:58	OBJLETTE R	Keep this wonderful place to the community. There is a lot of value in having hundres of tourists here every day :)
2016/7062/P	Kathryn Meade	6 summit court St helena 3088 Victoria Australia	14/02/2017 19:10:16	OBJ	I believe that changing the purpose of this location is a terrible idea. The hostel bring an affordable friendly budget and Eco friendly accommodation portion to the area, I have met many friends that are there for multiple reasons from travelers that are new to the country, British people that are heading to job interviews, people looking for an affordable place to stay between apartments, students in the city for school and more. All the people staying here spend money at the local shops, and restaurants supporting the local community. This would be a massive mistake and the community will suffer if you change this from a hostel to flats.
2016/7062/P	Acadia Babister	566 Darkes Forest Rd Darkes Forest 2508	15/02/2017 05:07:24	OBJ	This hostel provides affordable beds for many people living and visiting London. Because it is open to people from all over the word it allows many different cultures to experience and influence the Camden area. Many people use this hostel to live and work in the area. If this building becomes a set of three flats there will be significantly less people influencing the local economy. This loss would negatively effect the surrounding area, not to mention the hundreds of people who visit this hostel every month. All of whom have chosen this hostel because of its glorious location and outstanding culture.

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2016/7062/P	Eleanor Gray	27 Montague Street WC1B 5BH WC1B 5BH	14/02/2017 17:42:47	OBJ	<p>I wish to express my strong objection to the proposed residential development of 27 Montague Street, WC1B 5BH.</p> <p>I am currently the longest serving staff member at Astor Museum. I commenced my work as a Weekend Cleaner in June 2015 and I have been the hostel's Night Receptionist since September 2015.</p> <p>In my time at Astor Museum, I have observed the development of a vibrant, unique community which is akin to a loving family. Losing Astor Museum would ultimately mean the loss of our jobs, our home and our family.</p> <p>Our family consists of a fascinating mixture of local and international people, aged between 18 and 40, who have gravitated towards Bloomsbury with the express purpose to engage with the area's history, culture and community. I have personally taken guests around the British Museum, the Wellcome Collection and the John Soanes' Museum. Guests and staff have also participated in local events with Astor Museum being a sponsor of the 2016 Bloomsbury Festival. I also personally frequent Senate House Library, Pushkin House and the German Historical Institute.</p> <p>The hostel's exceptional location is central to its appeal, with guests citing its close proximity to Soho, Camden and other prime tourist attractions.</p> <p>Astor Museum also maintains exceptional relationships with local businesses including Bury Food &amp; Wine and the London Review Bookshop in Bury Place and Syrup of Soot and Bibimbap in Museum Street. Losing Astor Museum would mean local businesses would lose financial support from our guests and staff (which, at full capacity, is 120 people).</p> <p>We offer an alternative means of accommodation in an area of London which would otherwise be inaccessible to young people. I have dealt with a countless number of guests who are unable to find clean, affordable housing in Zones 1-6. We also house many long term guests (from both the UK and overseas) who find the hostel more amenable choice, given their specific set of personal and financial circumstances. Many thrive in the hostel's spirit and community, developing lifelong bonds and friendships. Loss of Astor Museum would mean our long term guests would lose their homes too.</p> <p>The location of Astor Museum provides a vital link to local educational institutions such as the University of London and the London School of Economics. Many of our guests are students who cannot obtain affordable housing close to campus. We also play host to a large number of working professionals who face similar difficulties. Astor Museum provides a safe and stimulating environment for academics and professionals who make significant contributions to the wider community at large.</p> <p>I speak on behalf of the hundreds, if not thousands of guests who have expressed their love and appreciation for Astor Museum.</p> <p>I sincerely hope my comments will be taken into consideration and Astor Museum will be saved and</p>

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					<p>enjoyed for generations to come.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
2016/7062/P	Tony	14 Scott Street CROYDON SYDNEY AUSTRALIA 2132	15/02/2017 00:51:10	OBJ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Affordable accommodation for people of limited-means or on a budget in Central London is important and necessary.</li> <li>- We provide a safe and helpful environment for people who have recently arrived in London and help them find their feet.</li> <li>- There would be a loss of jobs for young people, particularly a first job where they develop skills and learn about the hospitality industry.</li> <li>- People who visit London temporarily to study or do short courses and can't afford to rent a flat or to come in everyday and need a place to stay.</li> <li>- A safe and great location for people to stay before and after job interviews.</li> <li>- Friends visiting London, it is hard to find a cheap place to stay particularly in the city centre.</li> <li>-Lack of good quality budget accommodation.</li> <li>-Bad for local business.</li> </ul>
2016/7062/P	Ines Garcia Maldonado	65 The Textile Building 31a Chatham Place London E9 6FJ	14/02/2017 16:52:48	OBJ	<p>I would like to object to the conversion of this building into residential units. There is no better use for it than the hostel.</p> <p>I work as an estate agent myself and have a good understanding of the property industry. Not only I believe these flats would most likely end up in hands of private overseas investors, meaning no tax revenue for the UK and inflation of the already oversaturated market but it would also be a catastrophe to local businesses where guests go (3 flats x 2 occupiers per flat = 6 people as opposed to over 100 guests).</p> <p>This was my first ever accommodation in London and as many other young professionals that I met during my stay there, the only opportunity we had to start a life in London. It is affordable on a starting salary and gives young people the chance to save for a deposit before they can move into permanent accommodation. Many students from LSE and researches at the British Museum also stay there in a regular basis and would not be able to continue their studies should they have to pay for a flat in the area.</p> <p>I do not see how the council could possibly justify destroying a place that creates employment, offers great budget accommodation which boosts tourism and the local economy and acts as a starting point for young professionals bringing talent and entrepreneurship to our city for the purposes of building three luxury flats to fill the pockets of tax evading investors.</p>