

**London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine**  
Keppel Street, London WC1E 7HT  
United Kingdom  
Switchboard: [REDACTED]  
[www.lshtm.ac.uk](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk)



28 April 2017

Dear Sirs

Ref Planning Application PP-05918388 London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, 15-17 Tavistock Place

We refer to recent correspondence with our planning agent in respect of the above with regard to local plan policy DP15 Community and leisure uses.

The School believe the answer to real education/school transformation is strong, authentic community connections and actions. When families, community groups, business and schools band together to support learning, young people achieve more in within their education, and enjoy the experience more.

The School currently lacks informal space for students to engage with one another and with our research staff. As a research-led specialist postgraduate higher education institution, this space will provide potential to spark greater collaboration between staff and students. In addition, by opening to the public we will extend those opportunities so that students can engage with the local community. This will enable them to translate their knowledge for public audiences, maximising the reach, influence and impact of our educational and research activities. At the moment, a number of our student-focused public engagement activities, such as the annual Three Minute Thesis competition, are held behind relatively closed doors. Hosting these in the café would support our students to produce compelling ways of presenting their research and its significance to wider audiences.

The School acknowledges the councils concern that the proposals may lead to the loss of the meeting room and canteen associated with the school. The proposals do not reflect any loss of facilities for the school. Whilst it will provide access for the wider public, the cafe will remain integral to the school and continue to deliver and expand on existing meeting and catering facilities. Proven successful models for this exist in local educational establishments at:-

- **Gordon's Cafe at UCL,**
- A number of cafes across the Reading University campus e.g **Eat at the Square,**
- **Gallery Cafe at the University of Westminster,**
- **Café Vivo at University of Manchester,**
- The **1815 at University of Cambridge,** and
- The **Riverside Café at De Montfort University Leicester**

All of which have also provided similar access to their educational establishments through the creation of this type of community facility.

We trust this information clarifies the thinking behind the proposed changes and Schools aim to improve and expand on its current educational facilities.

Yours faithfully



John Starmer  
Director of Estates