

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Consultees Addr:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2017/0414/P	G R Jones	2 Fitzroy Square London W1T 5HF	09/05/2017 17:09:08	COMMNT	<p>I write to express concern about the redevelopment of the workhouse site in Cleveland Street.</p> <p>There is considerable local opposition to this building and I believe the developers should pay more attention to the changed circumstances of the site in the public consciousness and take more stock of some of its historical and cultural associations. It is part of a fascinating group of buildings. They have, by dint of other recent demolition, and massive local redevelopment, become a unique surviving remnant of the history of the area. The current proposals seem to go too far in isolating these buildings from their proper context and in attempting to pour a quart into a pint pot.</p> <p>Consultation.</p> <p>This seems to have been furtive. I should point out that there was considerable local interest in these buildings. Many members of the community had worked to see them preserved and it is down to their activities that this building has been highlighted and saved at all. It seems very unsatisfactory that so few of them managed to be aware of the small consultation window. Was this proper consultation at all?</p> <p>The Graveyard.</p> <p>The mass pauper graves in this area are of archaeological and historical interest, not to mention a sanctified site. I think it would be wise to consider whether it should be covered over or so cavalierly incorporated into any scheme.</p> <p>The Height.</p> <p>In order to make maximum benefit of space the developers will no doubt have claimed that they cannot proceed without going upwards and providing more space. But eight stories on the borders of a conservation area and in respect of the historical and monumental importance of nearby buildings is too high and too intrusive. The truth is that claims of economic necessity must be taken with a pinch of salt. Fitzrovia continues to prosper as an area. (Incidentally, it needs to preserve its character, or this prosperity will be threatened. The reason that people want to come and open offices there is partly because of buildings like the Workhouse.) It is likely that the demand will continue and thus the intrusion needed can be modified. It is not necessary, in a sellers market, to listen to pleas of poverty.</p> <p>The Curtilage.</p> <p>Although the Nightingale wards and the existing external wall are not part of the original scheme they are very much part of the current "look" and appeal and balance of these historic buildings. To destroy them would alter the character. It changes the entire frontage, proportion and balanced elevation of the historic grouping on Cleveland Street and its associations from the history of the area, and should not be allowed.</p>

Application No: **Consultees Name:** **Consultees Addr:** **Received:** **Comment:** **Response:**

I recommend that this application is refused or the applicants asked to withdraw it.
