

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Consultees Addr:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2017/0001/P	Cllr Alison Kelly	Camden Town Hall	01/08/2017 13:43:03	COMM	<p>I wish to object to the redevelopment proposed by the Zabłudowicz Collection in Prince of Wales Road.</p> <p>I reached my view after meeting people working with and for the organisation, reviewing the plans and looking at the impact of the development on local people.</p> <p>When we met the developers / architect began by telling me that, first and foremost, the organisation wants to build a repository to store its works of art.</p> <p>I question why this has to be on the site in an area which has little light and little space. I suggested using local redundant garages which could be turned into a safe and secure space. I suggested digging further down. No - the organisation wants to increase the height and bulk of the building - taking sunlight from local people, removing an historic, interesting hotchpotch of shapes - and creating a huge, solid, factory like structure at the back of the building.</p> <p>At the same meeting other potential activities on the site were then explained. But they appeared to be peripheral to the main aim of providing secure storage.</p> <p>I asked about community consultation on the scheme. Developers approach things in different ways. Many employ specialists outreach consultants to work with the local community to help reach a common understanding. The Zabłudowicz Collection, for whatever reason, decided not to do this. I am deeply concerned that close neighbours appear not to have been involved in influencing the scheme in any way.</p> <p>We then had a wider discussion about community involvement. Perhaps the overarching culture of the organisation is what the architect explained to me - telling me that local people should be grateful for the money being spent in the area by the organisation. I found this attitude somewhat patronising and may explain the lack of community involvement both in the development but also, more generally, in the work of the organisation over the last decade. Perhaps local organisations and local people sense the true values of the organisation.</p> <p>In summary:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) I am against the redevelopment because of its huge size and shape.2) The redevelopment removes interesting shapes and historic features.3) It's main purpose, as explained to me by those driving the project, is to provide secure storage of art works. That is not appropriate in a high density, residential part of Camden where space is at a premium.4) The redevelopment takes much needed sunlight from local homes.5) Local people have not been involved in the development of the scheme.6) The organisation has made clear that local people do not use the current facilities. Given the approach of the organisation I see no reason why this will change in the future.