


Penhale, Portloe, Truro, Cornwall, TR2 5PS


3rd August 2017

Dear Sir or Madam,

Ref: The Ruskin Hotel, 23-24 Montague street

I am writing to object to a proposed change of use of The Ruskin Hotel, at 23-24 Montague Street, from commercial to residential.

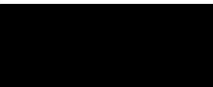
I work for Historic England as a home-worker in Cornwall, but need to spend several nights a month in London to attend meetings in our Holborn offices. Finding good affordable accommodation in central London is very difficult and I and many like me would suffer greatly if the Ruskin were to close. We simply would not be able to find alternative rooms of the same quality. The Ruskin is an exceptional hotel in being not just affordable but also very well managed, with helpful owners and staff, simple, clean, quiet and cool rooms uncluttered with TVs, etc, and cotton-sheeted beds.

Thousands of other guests clearly also enjoy the hotel; it is usually full and there is always a good communal buzz in the lounge, formerly a drawing room, unusual for a London Hotel. Many guests are tourists who have found in the Ruskin a rare opportunity to stay in Bloomsbury, the cultural heart of London, next to the British Museum, in the world once haunted by the likes of Virginia Woolf, John Nash and the Pre-Raphaelites. The hotel has become therefore an important place where people of many nationalities can meet informally and share experiences and enjoyment. Many warm memories of Camden and London will be taken home by Ruskin guests. Closure would be a great loss to a very large number of valuable visitors to Bloomsbury, Camden and London.

The building has features of interest that its guests appreciate, which if it closed would be removed from public enjoyment, notably an important early nineteenth century landscape of rural Camden painted in oil directly onto the drawing room wall. Guests also enjoy rare tranquillity in central London in the rear rooms that look over a long linear garden with several mature trees, the homes of woodpeckers and other birds.

Montague Street's urban character is largely generated by its discreet hotels; they bring activity, life and joy to an important street, immediately adjacent to the BM, one of London's most-loved places. Please do not put an end to that joy, those warm memories and my ability to stay in central London.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Herring