

Dike, Darlene

From: Whittingham, Gideon
Sent: 09 February 2018 16:35
To: Planning
Subject: FW: Rochester Square Temple 2017/7020/P -obj

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From: Coral Temple [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 January 2018 15:23
To: Whittingham, Gideon <Gideon.Whittingham@camden.gov.uk>
Subject: Rochester Square Temple

Dear Gideon,

I am sending you my objection letter to the planning app. 2017/7020/P, as I have lost faith in the email form. The reason for this is that although I am signed up for all planning applications in my local neighbourhood, I never received any alert for these plans. Therefore I entrust you to submit my objection.

Also I wish to be informed of any meetings which I would also like to speak at.

I request this in my capacity as a resident of Camden Square for over a quarter of a century and as an attendee and fund raiser of Rochester Square Temple for 21 years.

I have noted that none of the objections that have been submitted have been uploaded.

The official closing date for comments is this Friday.

Local opinion is that the date for sending comments should be greatly extended because of the stealthy ways this application has been submitted, and the failure of the email team to perform the duties for which it was set up.

Yours Faithfully,

Coral Temple.

OBJECTION

3.1

Yes, the Temple began construction in 1926, however what has been omitted is the fact that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle provided the main cash injection for this to happen. Mr and Mrs Ellis rendered themselves homeless in order to bring to the community a sanctuary of healing and new spiritual hope to a society ravaged by war losses and grief. This was a Christian Spiritualist Temple, it had no connection whatsoever with the the so called "Spiritualist National Union" and the SNU certainly never paid a penny for its construction. They have never paid a penny towards its upkeep.

3.3

The Temple was in use well up until the final AGM in early 2014.

At this AGM the members and congregation were advised by the SNU's then "trust property co-ordinator", Mr. Graham Hewitt, (a disbarred solicitor,)that "not one brick would ever be removed from the Temple". This gave the congregation and members the confidence to leave their sacred building in the "trusted hands" of the Spiritualist National Union. Their proposal States that the SNU "had hoped to raise funds to undertake improvement work to the building". Exactly what were they hoping for? Companies House auditors reveal that the SNU have 13 million in their coffers. What exactly were they hoping for? Let's guess, another few cool million to add to their portfolio of selling off Churches under their guardianship...

Also, It must be noted that professional builders and even a stonemason in the congregation offered their services for free to attend to any reparations of the building , but their offers were unceremoniously rebuffed.

3.4

The building was not squatted by a rival religious sect. It was understandably squatted by a peaceful group of environmentalists who opened the church for yoga classes and musical groups. The building was certainly not in a very poor condition. The reason that the building began to deteriorate was because the SNU allowed a building to be erected up against the actual walls of the Temple. This group of people left the building under a court order stating that the SNU needed the building back to REFURBISH IT. There are local newspaper articles available online that verify this. These are also accompanied by photographs of the inside of the Temple , showing it certainly to be fit for purpose.

3.5

The live in guardians placed there by the SNU have in fact been employed to keep the congregation and members out of their Church so that the SNU can assure their impending profit.

3.6

Rochester Square Spiritualist Temple may indeed be surplus to the SNU's requirements. However, it never will be surplus to the requirements of its over 300 strong congregation. When the SNU closed the Temple on the pretext of refurbishment, no correspondence was sent out to anybody on the progress and intentions of the SNU. People travelled from as far as Greenland and America for services only to find closed doors.

As for the "SNU's decision to dispose of this site last year", It never was theirs to dispose of. The church belonged solely to the congregation and members. The SNU have never paid one penny towards it construction or upkeep. I spoke at length with the Vice President of Rochester Square Temple, Derek O'Neil, who was also head of their wonderful healing team. He stated that the Temple always covered its costs. It did not make a vast profit because it was not in the business of gain, but in the

materialisation of healing, hope and compassion for all of its congregation from all walks of life, culture, creed and financial strata. He recorded a week when the Temple coffers were £21 down, and he just could not understand why. But then the penny dropped so to speak. Mr O'Neil recorded that Mr. Braeme, an SNU inspector, had come to "inspect" the premises and charged the Church £21 for the pleasure.

TREE WORKS

3.7, 8, 9 and 10

The Lime tree may well have been diseased and Camden Council did authorise its removal. However, Camden Council did NOT authorise the removal of 2 other mature trees in the Garden Of Remembrance. When contacted Camden Council were extremely displeased with this unnecessary and harsh act of tree demolition in a conservation area.

3. 11

Where is the Hornbeam replacement for the lime tree? OH YES, OF COURSE, IT WAS PLANTED WITH IT'S ROOTS IN SUNKEN TREE PITTS TO PREVENT ROOTS SPREADING AND HAD TO BE REMOVED. SILLY ME.

PLANNING APPLICATION (LPA REF: 2016/7088/P)

3.12

The local neighbourhood were quite horrified by this proposal. Camden Planning were inundated with a record number of objections. The neighbourhood are still waiting for these awful plans to be rejected. Everybody thought they had a little breathing space as these earlier plans are still waiting rejection. But no, the plans were put up over the Christmas period. I for one am signed up for email alerts about any developments in my area, which is very close to the Temple, and I received nothing. The only way I knew about these plans going up was from a friend who saw a small notice on a lamppost.

The original 2016/7088/P plans included a conciliatory art facility to make it look like it was a community project to fit in with council guidelines and property usage. At the planning meeting for this proposal in the Irish centre interestingly, everybody there turned out to be some sort of artist , including myself, and NOBODY wanted the facility.

3.13

I have spoken to neighbours since this new set of plans have been drummed up and not one of them has been consulted by anyone.

3.14

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3.15

I am unaware of whom these third parties might be. Investors?

4.4

I am appalled that the Spiritualist National Union would consider not only robbing the congregation of their Church, but also pirating away Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's foundation stone engraved with his details. The Great Man must be turning in his grave. This Temple was dedicated to the people as an eternal temple of healing light and hope, NOT AS A CASH COW FOR AN ORGANISED CRIME SYNDICATE.

4.8 AND 4.9 PLEASE REF TO 3.11

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION (OCTOBER2017)

4.18 TO 4.23

The basement works are something that nobody in this conservation area wants at all. The wonderful old houses surrounding the Temple have no foundations and will be devastatingly put under threat if basement works go ahead. There actually is no existing yardstick for the safety of basements adjacent to the surrounding historical domiciles. The water table will certainly be affected.

I attended this meeting. The plans were certainly NOT well received, they were just slightly less unwelcome than the absolute demolition of the whole Temple.

The Greed and Cunning of the "Spiritualist" National Union is without precedence.

No wonder there is currently a complaint lodged against them with the Serious Fraud Squad.