

English Heritage  
Fao. Mrs Cathy Power  
6th Floor  
100 Wood Street  
London  
EC2V 7AN

Application Ref: **2018/0154/L**  
Please ask for: **Tony Young**  
Telephone: 020 7974 **2687**

22 February 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

## **DECISION**

Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

### **Listed Building Consent Granted**

Address:  
**39-40 Bedford Place**  
**London**  
**WC1B 5JT**

Proposal: Installation of a blue ceramic commemorative plaque to political orator, writer and elocutionist, John Thelwall, to the front facade at ground floor level.

Drawing Nos: Site Location and Location Plans; Design & Access Statement dated 11 January 2018; Cover Letter - Heritage Statement dated 11 January 2018; English Heritage Plaque Description; Plaque Details & Design; Installation Methodology Note; Dictionary of National Biography entry.

The Council has considered your application and decided to grant Listed Building Consent subject to the following condition(s):

#### Conditions And Reasons:

- 1 The works hereby permitted shall be begun not later than the end of three years from the date of this consent.

Reason: In order to comply with the provisions of Section 18 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.



- 2 The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans: Site Location and Location Plans; Design & Access Statement dated 11 January 2018; Cover Letter - Heritage Statement dated 11 January 2018; English Heritage Plaque Description; Plaque Details & Design; Installation Methodology Note; Dictionary of National Biography entry.

Reason: In order to safeguard the special architectural and historic interest of the building in accordance with the requirements of policy D2 of the Camden Local Plan 2017.

Informative(s):

- 1 The proposal comprises the installation of a commemorative plaque on the front elevation of the grade II listed building at ground floor level. It is to commemorate the political orator, writer and elocutionist, John Thelwall, who in 1806 moved to the newly-built 40 Bedford Place, where he opened his Seminary for the Cultivation of the Science and Practice of Elocution, and the Cure of Impediments of Speech, and where he lived for seven years.

The plaque is proposed to be located on the front facade, centred between the ground floor windows and the recessed lines in the stucco. In terms of aesthetic impact on the special interest of the listed building and the effect on the character and appearance of the conservation area, it is considered acceptable. The position is also appropriate in order to allow the plaque to be visible to the average passer-by in a similar way to that of other existing blue plaques of this kind, and there are many other precedents on listed buildings throughout London.

The proposed installation is as per the established English Heritage method for installing blue plaques. This requires localised modification to the building fabric, in this case requiring careful filling of the lined stucco finish beneath the curved edges of the plaque itself. This is considered to be acceptable as the plaque is not intended to be reversible and the installation is designed to minimise issues with maintenance and to result in a seamless integration with the building façade. The proposal is compliant with LB Camden guidance on 'Artworks and memorials in parks, open spaces and the public realm in Camden'.

As such, the proposals are not considered to harm the special architectural or historic interest of the grade II listed building or the character and appearance of the Bloomsbury Conservation Area.

The site's planning and appeal history has been taken into account when coming to this decision. No objections have been received in relation to the proposals following public consultation.

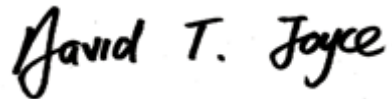
Special regard has been attached to the desirability of preserving the listed building and its features of special architectural or historic interest, under s.16 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act) 1990 as amended by the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act [ERR] 2013.

As such, the proposal is in general accordance with policy D2 of the Camden Local Plan 2017, the London Plan 2016, and the National Planning Policy Framework 2012.

You can find advice about your rights of appeal at:

<http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/planning/appeals/guidance/guidancecontent>

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David T. Joyce". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

David Joyce  
Director of Regeneration and Planning