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**From:** Derek O'neil [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 27 February 2018 19:13  
**To:** Planning; gideon.buckingham@camden.gov.uk  
**Subject:** Objection to Planning Objection 2017/7020/P Rochester Square Spiritualist Temple

I am Derek O'Neil, former vice President and acting President of Rochester Square Spiritualist Temple.

Our community will suffer greatly if this Temple is disposed of forever. Up until its doors were unnecessarily closed, it served those in greatest need. It opened its arms to the sick, the bereaved, the curious and the joyous, without judgement or disclosure.

This precious building was designed by architect Thomas Yorke. All drawings, measurements and decorative aspects and fittings were requested and supervised by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The temple was built on the same measurements and proportions as Solomon's Temple. The rear view is particularly interesting. The star at the back of the building reflects light from the sun all afternoon straight down the mews approach to the garden and across the horizontal. Every angle and line of this unostentatious but perfect building has been scrutinised and minutely developed to be fit for purpose.

There is only one purpose that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle created this building for, and that is as a Spiritualist Temple, a place of spiritual and physical healing, communication with loved ones, philosophical and emotional counsel, and of course embracing all of humanity with no prejudice. All creeds, cultures and religions are, and always will be, welcome through the doors of Rochester Square Temple.

In these times of unrest amongst our youth and the increasing incidents of violence and murder in Camden and Kentish Town, our facility and our prayers at this specific location are more needed than ever.

The planned excavation, involving the intrusive addition of a basement, is a dreadful thing to inflict on this conservation area, especially since there are lovely old houses nearby that risk weakened foundations in years to come.

Already there are too many modern flats being built in this area, destroying the charm of the location. It has been run down deliberately, merely for the sake of the financial gain of those who are supposed to be acting in its best interests.

The ashes of many souls have been interred with ceremony in the garden of Rochester Square Temple. Trees and bushes were planted to commemorate them. Sadly the developers have been hacking the trees down, without the courtesy of applying for planning permission.

When Rochester Square Temple was opened in 1927, it was dedicated by the Great Man, as a Spiritualist Temple from "now until eternity and a day beyond".

This was Sir Arthur's gift to London and the Spiritual movement. It is in fact the cornerstone Temple of Spiritualism in Britain.

The preservation of this building as a Spiritual Temple is beyond argument and discussion. It is vital to the continuity and history of the movement and to London.

Yours sincerely,

Derek O'Neil,

Vice President now acting President of  
Rochester Square Temple

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