

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 31 January 2019 06:10  
**To:** Triggs, Andrew [REDACTED]; Fowler, David  
[REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Gould, Georgia (Councillor) [REDACTED]; Wright, Anna (Councillor)  
[REDACTED]; Berry, Sian (Councillor) [REDACTED]; Lewis,  
Oliver (Councillor) [REDACTED]; Hai, Abdul (Councillor)  
[REDACTED]; Simpson, Jonathan (Councillor)  
[REDACTED]; Joyce, Luke [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]; Vokes, Neil  
[REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Highgate Newtown Community Centre redevelopment

Dear Mr Triggs and Mr Fowler,

I am writing to urge Camden Council to save the People's Gospel Mission hall for community use. The hall has, since 1892, been used for a range of activities. It continues to provide a venue for people of all ages to socialise, celebrate, exercise, learn and perform, amongst other activities. Many of the activities involve those who are most vulnerable in our society who might otherwise feel isolated and lonely; older people and people with disabilities. Keeping people active in their own homes is cost effective in both social and financial terms. The activities for new parents and the very young fulfil an important role in preparing for the future. There is strong evidence that funds spent on the under-fives and their parents save greater expenditure in later years. Having activities close to home is important for all these people.

The hall, along with the rest of the Highgate Newtown Community Centre site, was donated by Angela Burdett-Coutts 'to the people'. Demolishing the Mission hall and replacing it with housing goes against the intent of the donation.

In 2014-15 the building was refurbished to an excellent design retaining its excellent qualities whilst updating to meet contemporary needs: this at considerable expense to Camden taxpayers. It is in good condition, fit for purpose and therefore it could be seen as an act of vandalism to knock it down and a waste of taxpayers' money.

The hall is highly valued by the community and current architectural practice should permit the hall to be saved and integrated with a other HNCC and housing structures – to the benefit of all. New is not always better than old.

Yours sincerely  
Catherine Sykes,  
Camden rate payer and user of HNCC



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