

**17 Gerrard Road
Islington
London N1 8AY**



September 26th 2019

Planning Dept.
London Borough of Camden
5 Pancras Square
London N1C 4AG

Dear Sir,

Planning application 2019/4284/L

This application has just come to my attention, as I have seen no public notice of it anywhere near the Old Town Hall at Belsize Park, to which it refers. Most of this application is unobjectionable. However, the part referring to the catering is very contentious. The building is leased by the Council to Wac-Arts, a charity for teenagers with difficulties & about half is sub-let to the University for the Third Age (known as U3A in London). This is also a charity, in this case, for old people, of which I am a member, Group Co-ordinator but not an Officer. At present, there is a refectory called "The Atrium Café" run by Joanna (surname unknown because this is a very friendly society). This is perfectly attuned to the requirements of U3A members, as the food is excellent & the service is sufficiently fast to enable members to have a proper lunch between classes.

It is proposed to destroy this facility, bring in outside caterers & open a new restaurant in a different space to the public. This will cause great difficulties to the U3A members, as they will not be able to guarantee timely food or table space. Nor is it necessary, as there are copious eating businesses in Belsize Park village. There are also security issues. The building is divided up into sections accessed by RFID keys. I do not know what is in the Wac-Arts area but the U3A has thousands of pounds-worth of audio-visual & computer equipment. Although the appeal time is past, because of the lack of notice, I urge the Planning Committee to reject the application with the advice to take out the catering element & re-submit it.

Yours sincerely,



Ken Baldry