

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2020/1481/P	Robin Cohen	30/04/2020 14:46:40	COMMNT	<p>There is no credible impact assessment of the increased noise. The report refers to management plans to contain noise from terraces. But no such plan is provided. The report has no estimate of increased traffic and pedestrian flows external to the building and so has made no assessment of the increased noise and disturbance to the environs.</p> <p>The plans propose to re-establish hostel accommodation. This was previously abandoned in the 1960's due to associated disturbances. It should not be reestablished .</p>
2020/1481/P	Eric Wragge	30/04/2020 16:51:28	COMMNT	<p>We support redevelopment of the Irish Centre, which is a great asset to the neighbourhood.</p> <p>We do however have 3 particular issues with specific points of the current application, which are spelled out with more eloquently in the CAAC report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Relocating the main entrance to Murray St., directly across the road from our home. This location brings the main centre of activity MUCH closer to people residences. There are bedrooms in many of the flats that overlook Murray St that are directly across the road from the proposed main entrance / exit. Even with fantastic security, there will be much more disturbance from people leaving events / smoking outside / etc. than there would be if the main entrance stayed near where it is. 2. The bar on the roof. There may be a way to make something on the roof work and we would in principle have no problem with a daytime cafe, but I don't see that a bar which is open in evenings and has views directly into residential flats can be acceptable. 3. Perhaps it has been addressed, but finding residents parking on weekends when there is an event at the Irish Centre can already be a challenge. Given bigger facilities, there should be some way to ensure local parking remains available to residents even when large events are being held. <p>These three points aside, we want to note that the Irish Centre are great neighbours who we feel deserve a new [and enlarged] home. Construction will no doubt be disruptive but we trust them to be considerate and communicative through that process.</p>

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2020/1481/P	Danny Nissim & Maureen Parry	30/04/2020 18:33:37	OBJ	

As close neighbours of The London Irish Centre, we wish to object to this planning application on several grounds:

1. Proposal will increase capacity for large scale events; events in the venue already causing noise and anti-social behaviour problems in neighbourhood

Although we support the LIC as a charity and admire its work in the community, we are concerned that in the last few years the Irish Centre has increasingly become a venue for major events including concerts, boxing matches and big scale receptions which have attracted large crowds. These events have ended late at night, some at 11pm and some later, and the large number of people dispersing have caused noise and disturbance in the neighbouring streets. We are regularly disturbed by noise and anti-social behaviour from people attending these events and so are many of our neighbours.

We feel that Camden Square, which is mostly residential, is not appropriate for a venue for this kind of event. In the Application, the plan stated is to increase the capacity of the building so more and larger events could take place. According to the Event Management Plan, the LIC can currently accommodate 1,000 people – which we consider already much too many for this location – and they are planning to increase the size of the main hall so that this can be increased to 1,250 or more.

The plan also mentions that they wish to make the LIC self-financing, and it's not entirely clear how the new Centre would be run. At the moment events at the Irish Centre or run by Sliced Events, part of Navolio Ltd. A small proportion of profits is given to The Irish Centre Charity. The majority of the money earned by the huge events in our residential area is profit for a private company and we would like this fact to be taken into consideration when considering the proposal.

2. Moving main entrance to Murray Street won't solve problem of crowd dispersal

The Event Management Plan acknowledges the challenge of managing crowds exiting after events and blames internal connections in the building. To solve this problem it is proposed to move the main entrance from Camden Square to Murray Street. No re-shaping of the internal spaces or relocating of exits is going to prevent a large number of people at the end of a concert all spilling out into a residential area well after 11pm and inevitably causing a major disturbance.

3. The External Roof Terrace

We feel that this is totally inappropriate in this area and will lead to noise disturbance and cause overlooking opposite residential properties and therefore cause an unacceptable invasion of privacy for surrounding neighbours.

4. The Building: objections to style, size, materials and openings

On Murray Street and Murray Mews the proposed building presents as a big monolithic block, with little detail, surface stepping or features to break up the mass and mediate with the surrounding area and its mainly 19th century neighbouring residential buildings.

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It is proposed to continue the whole new block at the height of the front Camden Square houses so the new building on Murray Street will be a further storey in height than the current buildings. This will accentuate the impression of a bulky block. Alas, the reason for this building being overly bulky would seem to be to erect as big a venue as possible for major events in the middle of a residential area.

The use of pale bricks for much of the flank wall is unfortunate as they will accentuate the bulk, be glaring to the eye, attract graffiti and possibly weather to a grubby colour.

The few large window openings are out of scale, oddly positioned, ugly and at night will allow light to disturb people living in the opposite properties.

5. Demolition and Construction Work.

Undertaking this scale of work is bound to produce a huge amount of noise and dirt pollution for a long period in a closely confined residential area.

6. Unclear about use of Camden Square Frontage and Gardens.

Quite what the 'therapy gardens' will be used for is unclear. Although we are happy that the Camden Square building facades are being kept, the garden on to the Square would, in the new plan be the back entrance, and mention is made of putting the waste bins out from there for collection. Also, apparently bikes would be stored in this front area.

It's stated that the garden could be for community use and if so would the Irish Centre staff take daily responsibility for closing the area at a certain time of night as the Council does for the Square gardens? This measure is taken to prevent the outdoor spaces being used during evenings and at night for antisocial behaviour and causing disturbance to local residents.

Overall, this application proposes the biggest construction project in our area for decades. In our current lockdown state of emergency, with people less likely to see planning application notices and less chance of exchange of information with neighbours, we would request that the period for comments be extended.
