

Printed on: 08/06/2020 09:10:07

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2020/1481/P		02/06/2020 20:51:00	COMMENT	<p>To Whom It May Concern</p> <p>I am writing to state that I support the redevelopment of the London Irish Centre. I presently teach Irish dancing in the Centre to children and adults in the Community and I believe a modern building with appropriate facilities and more space will be beneficial in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* A welcoming environment with easy access for dancers of all ages and their families will encourage more participants.* A modern dance studio with a bigger space, mirrored walls and safe flooring will attract more people to enjoy this part of Irish culture.* A communal indoor and outdoor area for the parents to gather while they wait for their children will create the social atmosphere that so many of us associate with the Irish culture. <p>The redevelopment of the centre will enable the services to continue in a more efficient way. Consequently more people will be attracted and encouraged to enjoy the various parts of Irish culture in London.</p> <p>Yours Sincerely</p> <p></p>
2020/1481/P		02/06/2020 20:45:30	COMMENT	<p>Supporting the Redevelopment of the London Irish Centre - 2020/1481/P</p> <p>I am an Irish language activist and teacher, and so frequently attend the London Irish Centre both to teach classes and to organise and host various other events related to Irish language and culture. The London Irish Centre is a hub for anyone interested in Irish culture in London, and the first port of call for many who are either reconnecting with their own culture as they live abroad, or who are discovering and nurturing for the first time a link to Ireland, very often a deep personal and meaningful family connection that they can explore through Irish culture. This includes older people who emigrated from Ireland along time ago along with new arrivals, and everyone in between. There are new parents who are keen to bring their children up with the language and culture of their homeland. There are second and third-generation Irish people exploring their roots and heritage. Irish language courses in the London Irish Centre always sell out quickly, and the demand for classes cannot be met due to scheduling issues - basically, a lack of available appropriate spaces for classes to take place. A redeveloped and expanded London Irish Centre with purpose-built classrooms and other community spaces would allow the community the opportunities they desire to study and practise the Irish language, and the London Irish Centre would really be able to provide the service that its patrons want. Another issue with the current building structure is the layout - it is deeply inconvenient and confusing for guests, attendees, learners and all members of the community to have separate entrances at opposite ends of the property to rooms with no internal connection. In order to build communities and allow ideas to cross-pollinate and flourish, it would be much preferable to have a more coherent space in the Centre, with the right facilities and services to welcome and help anyone visiting. The Irish have a huge role in the history of London, but not just the history. There are still thousands of young Irish people moving here every year and to have a London Irish Centre for the future, and keep the connections between Ireland and London strong and vibrant, a more integrated and comfortable building with the right facilities to allow cultural service to expand is absolutely vital.</p>

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2020/1481/P		02/06/2020 15:26:13	INT	<p>London Irish Centre, weekly Set Dancing Class and Monthly Ceili</p> <p>An Irish Set Dancing Class has been taking place at the London Irish Centre on during term time on Tuesday nights since 1987. I have been running the class since 1989 and it is probably the longest running Set Dancing Class in London.</p> <p>A Set Dancing Ceili takes place every first Sunday in the month (accept July when we take a holiday). It first took place in 1990 and I have been running it since 1991. It is a very popular Session which takes place from 3pm to 6pm.</p> <p>The Class and the Monthly Ceili provide a great opportunity for Irish People of all ages and many others to enjoy first hand one of the most dynamic Traditional Irish activities.</p> <p>Irish Set Dancing is one of many Irish cultural activities which the London Irish Centre hosts. We are very excited about the planned improvements to the Centre. The Centre has seen many changes over the years and we are in total support of the current plans to make it more accessible, to expand its activities, to maintain an unbroken Irish Cultural heritage and to continue to serve as London's principal Irish Centre.</p>
2020/1481/P		02/06/2020 23:44:32	NOBJ	<p>I look forward to the London Irish Centre's updated facilities being available in the community. Having attended events over the years, and attended community consultations on the project, it's clear that their desire to build out premise and re-work the configuration can only benefit this community.</p> <p>I live 5 minutes from the centre now, and have seen how they have sprung into action during lockdown and have become a focal point not just of the Irish community but of the wider North London community by extending the facilities and skills.</p>

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2020/1481/P		02/06/2020 10:29:28	COMMENT	Hello

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I write in support of this exemplary scheme. I am a local resident (York Way) and also a business owner - Green & Fortune at Kings Place.

The first thing to note with this application is the strength of the organisation. At every level, it has committed people doing incredible things. Its community outreach is first rate. This has been going for many years. In today's challenging times it continues with added impetus. It has not curtailed its activity unlike other organisations and charities in this sector. It is stoic in its support of the community. Engagement levels are high and they continue to be a lifeline to the vulnerable, lonely and needy people in our wider community.

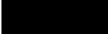

Culturally it offers a comprehensive service to a broad audience. From poetry to large scale music events, it reaches far beyond the Irish community in London. Its success not only lies in high profile events but in the engagement with children and older members of the community, delivering experiences that help shape our society.

The development scheme is ambitious, yet measured. The support that it is garnering from many organisations - both commercial and community based - demonstrate the need for centres of this quality and a broader desire to do good for the wider public. The organisation has an enviable board of trustees and high levels of governance. This manifests itself in all that the organisation does on the front line.

Personally I have been a supporter of the London Irish Centre over a number of years. London needs centres of excellence like this one. Moving forward they will increasingly play a very important part in our community and society. This development scheme is part of this future. A lot has changed and happened since the centre opened its doors in the 1950's. This thoughtful and resolute planning application will set the centre on the road for the coming decades. It will enrich the lives of many and support the vulnerable in our area of London. It will add to the cultural mix that Camden has to offer.

I wholeheartedly support this application.

Yours sincerely

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2020/1481/P		02/06/2020 17:06:56	SUPPRT	<p>As outgoing chair of the council of Irish County Associations London(CICA). On their behalf would like to write in support of planning application 2020/1481/P. The CICA have been in existence since 1954 looking after the welfare and overseeing cultural events for our county associations and their members. The CICA has always operated out of the London Irish Centre, recently acquiring its own designated office space there.</p> <p>We feel the existing building is urgently in need of large scale redevelopment. The infrastructure is very poor, which about one third taken up by stairways and corridors, and very little lift access for elderly and infirm patrons, and office space is severely cramped.</p> <p>The new plans would provide a bright and airy facility, with easy access throughout, enabling the centre to continue and enhance the welfare and cultural activities of the centre, a modern building which would provide enhanced catering to supply and deliver good quality meals to its elderly, improved meeting areas including outdoor spaces(which is urgently lacking) concert area, meeting areas, exhibition and library areas as well as relaxation and refreshment areas to cater for the needs of a ever-changing population.</p> <p>The CICA Fully support and look forward to the application being granted</p>	

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2020/1481/P		02/06/2020 14:30:58	SUPPRT	<p>I write in support of the London Irish Centre's plans for the redevelopment of their site.</p> <p>As CEO of St Luke's community centre in Islington, I am acutely aware of the importance of such a centre working with the community on cultural and community issues. Our centres are able to respond quickly and effectively to a variety of issues in partnership with the Local Authority. One such example of this is the current situation in which we find ourselves whereby the community depends on us for food, the delivery of hot meals on a daily basis, telephone support and sign-posting to other services particularly around mental health issues.</p> <p>However, the London Irish Centre is more than providing support and assistance to the local community as they are also the ground-stone of Irish culture within the Capital. Without the London Irish Centre, there would be no landmark which stands as a beacon not just to the Irish community but to local residents within the Camden area. The Centre is well-known and respected by people from all ethnicities and is appreciated for the work which they do in the local community.</p> <p>As with St Luke's community centre in Islington, the London Irish Centre welcomes people from across London and makes a real and important contribution to London life. The Centre plays a significant role in welcoming Irish people regardless of their background, beliefs or aspirations. The Centre is the corner-stone of community care, social initiatives and cohesion.</p> <p>The venue exudes a wonderful, welcoming, inviting atmosphere. However, it is, without doubt, in need of updating and refurbishment. It is such a pity that the richness of the contribution of the Centre is marred by the building itself. The building is unable to be welcoming to all because of problems with accessibility both on entering the building and once inside. Its uniqueness as a venue is diminished by its narrow corridors, corners and lack of light in parts of the building. This causes problems for all visitors who attend the Centre as well as staff and its many volunteers.</p> <p>St Luke's community centre was refurbished in 2010/11 with the full support of Islington Council. It was transformed from an unwelcoming, dark and restricted building, to one of openness, brightness, accessible and welcoming. As a result, St Luke's Centre is one of the jewels in Islington's crown with regard to building community and promoting a welcoming and positive atmosphere. The upshot is that people want to be part of a thriving, forward-thinking and forward-looking, environment which enables them to fulfil their potential through services and activities in a safe, welcoming space which inspires people to participate. It is also right that the many local residents should have an inspiring building rather than expecting them to 'make-do' with a less than environment.</p> <p>The London Irish Centre is a focus of community building and cohesion. It rebels against the fractured outlook of so many in society, including some of the world's leaders. Thus, it is right that, as a community building enterprise, it should have an appropriate and proper home from which to operate. It is also right that the building reflects the ethos of the Centre by being open, welcoming and encouraging for so many people, particularly those who may have issues around mobility and dementia.</p> <p>The development of the London Irish Centre building is crucial to the continued building of communities which is characteristic of Camden and its promotion of thinking outside the box. This new building will complement the Local Authority and local people in further developing this great culture. It will be a landmark for</p>

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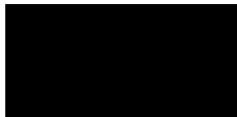
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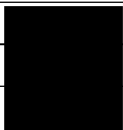
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generations.

Yours faithfully



2020/1481/P		02/06/2020 11:26:28	NOBJ	Pleased to see this valuable resource being updated for its key client group which includes my father
2020/1481/P		02/06/2020 11:26:26	NOBJ	Pleased to see this valuable resource being updated for its key client group which includes my father
2020/1481/P		02/06/2020 21:27:58	SUPPRT	<p>I voluntarily run an Irish-language Saturday School and an Irish-language choir based at the London Irish Centre in Camden Square. These groups could not exist without the centre and the cannot thrive without the proposed redevelopment. We are huge limited by the space at present and the impaired mobility of the young children attending the Saturday school, and the elderly people attending the choir makes it very difficult to navigate thethe varied levels of the current layout.</p> <p>Our attendees come from all over the borough and beyond and are a mix of all nationalities - especially the Saturday School families many of whom have another minority language in the family too, such as Spanish, Romanian, Hebrew, Greek, etc. And for many of them it is the first parent and child group they attend.</p> <p>We would love to grow all these groups and we hope that you will support this building development to allow us to do so.</p>

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2020/1481/P		02/06/2020 11:33:54	OBJ	<p>I write to comment on the proposals for the redevelopment of the London Irish Centre.</p> <p>I have been a resident of Murray Street for over 10 years and am generally supportive of the LIC and the operation of the centre with Sliced Events.</p> <p>Whilst I recognise the need to redevelop aspects of the LIC, I feel that the current large-scale plans are not in keeping with the character of what is primarily a quiet residential street -> particularly in relation to proposed usage, the radical expansion of the venue, and the character of the proposed building on Murray Street, including the change of entrance and purpose. I would also question the plans / undertakings on the demolition of the existing building and construction of the proposed venue, as well as the heavy impact that this will have on surrounding properties, residents, traffic - and air quality.</p> <p>Since the closure of The Murray Arms, Murray Street has been a residential street with a school and traffic calming measures, including speed bumps, restricted entrance and bollards. This has already been somewhat negatively disrupted by the use of heavy construction vehicles for the redevelopment of the nearby estate and ride-sharing traffic, to the extent that there has been significant damage to the traffic restriction point and bollards at the entrance to Murray Street from Agar Grove due to a lack of traffic or planning enforcement.</p> <p>The recent increase in 'heavy' traffic (coaches, skip haulage, cement mixer lorries, heavy goods traffic) on and around Murray Street and Agar Grove has already caused damage to buildings and road surfacing, contributed to in part by heavy vehicles driving over speedhumps at speed. There is also, of course, the related negative impact on air quality, something which I believe the Mayor of London is also particularly exercised about. I am therefore concerned about the effect of further heavy building works on surrounding residential structures on a quiet street - and the effect on 'heavy' traffic in the long-term, both from works and the development of the usage of the venue.</p> <p>Whilst I support and recognise the value of the outreach of the LIC to the Irish community, and to some extent the need to update the venue's Main Hall, the capacity increase proposed would not seem in keeping with the location, nor the current usage. I would remind the council that this is a conservation area -> and that it has itself, on a number of occasions, blocked the installation of double glazing as a replacement for sash windows on Murray Street. How odd then that it seems to support the installation of a new 3+ story building with a bar, with all the attendant noise and social issues that this will bring.</p> <p>At the same time, Camden High Street and nearby Kentish Town, much busier commercial areas, have considerable empty capacity in established commercial zones more in keeping with the proposed (much changed) usage of the LIC as a large commercial business, social drinking spot, concert venue and bar.</p> <p>On nights when the LIC is hired out for weddings, discos, New Year events and student parties, there are already issues with parking and late-night noise -> and there have been recorded instances of antisocial behaviour extending into the early hours, resulting in police action. Such a marked increase in capacity is only likely to exacerbate these issues, causing conflict - and disruption to residents.</p> <p>As a resident of Murray Street I am of course concerned about the impact that demolition of the existing building, excavations, re-piling and preparation of the site is likely to have on the quality of life for people in the area over a prolonged period, particularly those with young children -> notably the many users of the rare green</p>

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				<p>space in the square adjacent to the school. I also note the significant objections of Thames Water, One Housing, several residents groups, residents and others - I as well as the rather vague general expressions of support from various far-flung people not impacted.</p> <p>As well as issues with traffic, there are already subterranean problems relating to water drainage to the railway which runs under Murray Street and Camden Square - and the council will be aware of the subsidence issue further up Agar Grove which has been exacerbated by traffic and subterranean development from new building works and the nearby railway.</p> <p>Whilst I appreciate the moves made to consult with the local community, the new LIC building, in particular the modern-looking building and frontage for Murray Street, looks decidedly out-of-keeping with the tenor of the architecture of the area (a residential conservation area). The council has previously rejected plans to use a local restaurant (Temptations) on Murray Street as a live music venue - it is odd then that it should now be considering the erection of a large modern building with vastly-increased capacity for a bar, roof terrace and large entrance, causing crowding and noise on a small residential street with existing parking and traffic issues. The new frontage and expanded commercial venue threaten to dominate and obliterate Murray Street as a residential area. In particular, the proposed roof terrace / bar on the upper floors / roof would also lead to an increase in noise levels and nuisance from antisocial behaviour, bringing hundreds more people to a small street with infrastructure ill-suited for the purpose - and in conflict with the primary residential setting.</p> <p>On a personal note, the development of anything on the 3rd floor or above is likely to lead to the front bedroom of my property being overlooked by drinkers, a loss of privacy and the sleep of my child (and myself) being disturbed by both building works and ongoing usage, not least as I work from home 3 days a week and my child studies here between 15:30 and 17:30 on weekdays.</p> <p>I would like to stress that I am in general a long-time supporter of the LIC and its underlying aims to support and give a home and voice to the Irish community, as well as supporting community cohesion. How sad then, that this project seems to have morphed into something much more commercial and large scale, not sympathetic to the local area, not in keeping with the LIC's own longstanding aims, nor maintaining and promoting harmonious community relations.</p> <p>This would seem to be a very large construction project which will significantly change the character of both the LIC and blight the local community for years to come - in ways which have not been fully explored or consulted on. I would urge the council and the LIC to consult further and to amend the plans to develop something more sympathetic, which is more in keeping with the character of the area and focusing more on the vibrant Irish community, rather than a soulless, large-scale commercial undertaking which is not in keeping with the location or the needs, wants and desires of much of the local community.</p>
2020/1481/P		02/06/2020 22:09:06	COMMENT	This is a wonderful development and a real opportunity to build on the foundations of what is already a great institution and an integral part of Camden society. This redevelopment will only enhance the Irish Centre to assist the citizens of Camden and London even more. Grant it please!
2020/1481/P		02/06/2020 13:03:57	SUPPORT	I support any redevelopment that the London Irish Centre wants to carry out.

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2020/1481/P		02/06/2020 12:45:56	SUPPRT	<p>I am writing in support of the London Irish Centre's proposal for plans to redevelop the site to one which will successfully bring their service to the community far into the future.</p> <p>The current building was created in 'add on' sections over a long history since 1954 and so the layout of the building does not function well for people moving around the overall premises - much space is wasted on corridors with inefficient means of access to different parts of the building and no possible way of having an effective central welcoming space for the community as a whole on entry. Some of the current building is also quite difficult to access for disabled.</p> <p>Parts of the building are in disrepair - I have taught music classes for the Irish community there for 27 years and can see a number of worsening problems which would be expensive to fix and yet, would possibly recur with the current layout/ state of the building.</p> <p>Because of the current 'niggledy piggledy' layout of the building, it is not possible for our teachers and students to access other parts of the building which could be suitable for our additional 'breakout' classes and so we are cramped into a limited space in one section of the building. The new proposed redevelopment would make all parts of the building accessible from a central entrance with a community hub accessible to all who are using the building (also something which is much needed), and would make spaces flexible for welfare services use during the day and community/ education use during the evenings.</p> <p>The new proposed entrance and community cafe would be a fantastic opportunity for regular user groups at the Centre and the general local community to meet and get to know one another.</p> <p>The design of the redevelopment of the building is a perfect blend of features from the original beautiful old buildings on Camden Square and an overall contemporary feel to make the whole site a beautiful feature in the locality, rather than what might appear to the locals/ a first time visitor as a number of disconnected buildings which happen to be beside each other.</p> <p>The large number of Irish music community members across the generations who I serve through Irish music classes and community music, song and dance events are very excited about the proposal to redevelop the London Irish Centre in the way which has been laid out in these plans and we support the planning application wholeheartedly.</p>
2020/1481/P		02/06/2020 14:59:22	SUPPRT	<p>I was fortunate to visit the London Irish Centre in March and was impressed by the team and their absolute dedication to helping vulnerable people. It was also very revealing they help everyone not only vulnerable Irish with the same empathy and wish to better every situation they are asked to assist. The Covid 19 pandemic has highlighted and increased the need for their truly compassionate support and service.</p> <p>Elgin Loane, publisher, The Irish Post newspaper</p>
2020/1481/P		02/06/2020 10:40:07	SUPPRT	<p>I would like to support the application by London Irish Centre for Planning Permission. Society needs facilities for those left behind, for those in need and the vulnerable. This development will allow the Charity to do more and to do better. I also support its cultural role. We need shared spaces where we can come together to understand each other and to celebrate our diversity.</p>

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2020/1481/P		02/06/2020 21:35:55	SUPPRT	<p>As a member of the Irish community in London and user of the centre, I support the much needed re-development of the Irish Centre in order to ensure its long term future is secured and continues to serve the large Irish population in London, many of whom rely on its services particularly in such challenging times. The re-design of the Centre has been well considered, retaining the important elements of the locally listed building (especially its appearance onto Camden Square), while making the main internal spaces larger and the whole space a lot more legible, making it a lot more appealing a space for future users and catering for different types of events.</p> <p>I note the concerns of local residents in terms of increased capacity, noise and increased traffic. However the supporting statements (including the proposed User Management Plan and Planning Statement) set out that the increase in capacity would not be significant (and also controlled by Fire Safety/ Building Regs), while the hours of use would be controlled by planning condition and the terms of the license. The use of the terrace could also be controlled by condition, and has been set back at third floor level and would be screened from public views.</p>
