

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2021/1188/L	Sam Reed	10/05/2021 09:33:05	OBJ	<p>We would like to object to the retrospective application as the awnings, lighting, and pavement heaters on the basis of having a detrimental impact on the Grade II listed 53 and 51 Carey Street, the setting of the Grade 1 listed Royal Courts of Justice, and the Bloomsbury CA.</p> <p>Carey Street is described in the Bloomsbury CA appraisal as making 'an important contribution to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area' with the shopfront of 53 Carey Street described as 'shopfront of merit' and the view east along Carey Street is noted for its heritage significance. The site is directly opposite the Grade I listed Royal Courts of Justice so it is of paramount importance that any additions on 53 and 51 Carey Street do not have a detrimental impact on the setting of the Grade I listed building.</p> <p>We strongly object to the installation of pavement heaters, lighting, conduit, and awning box to the facade of 51 Carey Street as they clearly have a strong negative presence on the building. The Seven Stars shopfront is marked as a 'shopfront of merit' and makes a strong contribution to the character of Carey street. Installing heaters, lighting, conduit, and awning box demonstrably detract from the shopfront and we hope that no damage has been made to the fascia during installation. Despite the applicants' assertion that the exterior can be reinstated exactly as before from the photos provided it seems that the fittings have been directly screwed into the stonework of 51 Carey street, which if correct has caused irreversible damage.</p> <p>The view of the Seven Stars as seen from the Grade I listed Judges' Portico, Royal Courts of Justice is negatively affected by the additions which clutter the facade with modern incongruous additions. The awnings would also block the view of the shopfront of 53 Carey Street.</p> <p>Our objections to the awnings are that they are entirely unsympathetic to the character of the buildings. The bright colours chosen are inappropriate and the applicant should pick more traditional neutral colours such as cream rather than bright yellow, green, and orange. The applicant should make a concerted effort to pick a traditional awning material that would be more effective at cohesively fitting in with the character of the buildings, the Street, and the CA.</p> <p>It is our view that awnings should only be installed on 51 Carey street where an awning box is already present, with an alternative more appropriate colour and material selected for the awning. The pavement heaters, lighting, conduit should be removed as well as the awning boxes on 53 Carey Street. The applicants' design and access statement state that they are seeking permanent planning consent, this should not be given and enforcement action should be carried out to remove the fittings.</p> <p>Best wishes,</p> <p>Sam Reed, On behalf of the Bloomsbury CAAC.</p>