



Dear Sir or Madam,

I regularly attend church nearby at St George's Bloomsbury, and while the Travelodge is a left over from the ill-fated period when the whole of Covent Garden was devalued and due for demolition, this new application for an even higher and more intrusive building on the same site is objectionable for many reasons.

- **Entrenches the bad planning attitudes of the past** which devalued Covent Garden and the Museum area and saw both areas as ripe to be destroyed. After huge and costly planning battles by the residents, these attitudes of your planners were proved wrong, and both areas in their preserved and restored form are loved by locals and tourists alike.
- **This proposed office block is too bulky for the area** and the proposed height dominates the surrounding and overshadows the tower of St George's, a unique historical building that anchors the area.
- **The proposal is much larger even than the footprint of the current Travelodge** -- already an eyesore and an embarrassment at the top of Drury Lane.
- **After the pandemic, more office space in central London must be re-thought**, but the 250,000 square feet of offices proposed will simply contribute to the current number of empty buildings in this neighbourhood, and the **proposed social housing on the site is inadequate**, and will soon be abandoned as is allowed to happen with so many office blocks accepted by Camden.
- Aspects of the planned proposal including **a small alleyway Vine Lane and small open space will create additional areas for crime** to flourish. Planners should have learned lessons from the past about creating dark and unwelcoming places for drug-taking and crime.

All told, this is a greedy and ill-timed proposal from developers which I hope will be turned down.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Dorothy Connell
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