
From: Peter Popham [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 July 2021 12:19
To: Planning Planning
Cc: Nasim Ali; Heather Johnson; Neil McDonald; Angela Malik
Subject: Planning application reference 2020/5473/P 17-37 William Road - resident comment

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to the members of the Planning Committee:

I am writing as a resident of Stanhope Street, living in an ex-LA maisonette opposite Netley Campus, to record my opposition to the above proposal.

At 15 floors plus basement, the design has twice the number of floors of Netley Campus, which in turn towers over the four-storey maisonette block on Regent's Park Estate on the other side of Stanhope Street, where I live.

If built, this monolithic tower would seriously reduce daylight for the neighbouring residential area. But in addition to the sheer scale of the block there is a brutal, overbearing monotony to the design which comes across as a calculated insult in the context of the humane architectural environment of this part of Camden.

The Netley Campus, completed in 2014, set a bad precedent for the placing of aggressively tall and bulky buildings not discreetly sited (as is the case with the occasional tower block on the south side of the Regent's Park Estate, ie the part south of Robert Street) but right on the street line, 'in your face', with a consequently negative impact on the livability and attractiveness of the area and the availability of daylight. The proposed William Street tower builds on this mistake, threatening to redouble the offence.

The southern part of Regent's Park Estate, designed in the late 1950s by Armstrong and McManus, was an early example of the sort of inspired social housing design for which Camden later became famous worldwide. As a resident of 8 years' standing I can affirm that its human scale and its areas of well-wooded public space make it in many ways an ideal housing development whose charm survives today. This new proposal is an affront to those values and suggests profound cynicism on the part of the developer and architect responsible. I urge the committee in the strongest terms to reject this application.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Popham
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