



Email: Jennifer.Walsh@Camden.gov.uk

11 May 2022

Dear Jennifer Walsh

RE: 2022/1320/L & 2022/1041/P

The British Library (Land to the North of the British Library), 96 Euston Road, London

The Society wrote to object to the above applications in a letter dated 4th May 2022. We write now with further information and thoughts, which we ask the local authority to consider.

In the applicant's Heritage Statement, it is stated that "The BLCC was placed north of the BL, with an expectation that it may be adapted or even removed". The source quoted for this claim is the heritage consultant's interview with the architect Rolfe Kentish. The Society has since been in touch with Kentish who has confirmed (in an email dated 9th May 2022) that "the building would not have been built if there was any 'expectation' that it would be demolished." It is clear that the BLCC was designed to be a permanent extension to the British Library, not a temporary addition to be removed at a later date.

Kentish has explained that northern expansion was envisaged, but in a form that accommodated the existing BLCC. Kentish explains that "The location of the BLCC and the terrace over the substantial loading bay, situated in the interior of an urban block, allowed for the development around it on three sides." As outlined in our previous letter, the Society maintains that this should be the approach adopted and that demolition of this NDHA is not necessary to permit the extension of the British Library's services.

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Lastly, Kentish has clarified that “Sandy [Colin St John Wilson] was more than a ‘consultant’”. As outlined in our earlier letter, the design of the BLCC involved all of the key members of the British Library’s original design team, which contributes to its significance.

Overall, we maintain that the BLCC is an intelligent and high-quality extension to the British Library and every effort should be made to conserve it. While we do not object to northern expansion in principle, we oppose the current plans largely due to the loss of the BLCC.

Yours sincerely,



Coco Whittaker

Caseworker

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Remit: The Twentieth Century Society was founded in 1979 and is the national amenity society concerned with the protection, appreciation, and study of post-1914 architecture, townscape and design. The Society is acknowledged in national planning guidance as the key organisation concerned with the modern period and is a constituent member of the Joint Committee of the National Amenity Societies. Under the procedures set out in *ODPM Circular 09/2005*, all English local planning authorities must inform the Twentieth Century Society when an application for listed building consent involving partial or total demolition is received, and they must notify us of the decisions taken on these applications.

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