
From: Christina Emerson <christina.emerson@spab.org.uk>
Sent: 13 June 2022 13:46
To: Planning Planning
Cc: Patrick Marfleet; Jonathan McClue
Subject: Great Ormond Street Childrens Hospital, Frontage Building, Great Ormond Street, London, WC1N 3JH - 2022/2255/P

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Your ref: 2022/2255/P

Dear Sir/Madam

Great Ormond Street Childrens Hospital, Frontage Building, Great Ormond Street, London, WC1N 3JH

Redevelopment of the Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) Frontage Building (for the purposes of consultation: Phase 4 Children's Cancer Centre) comprising demolition of the existing building, and erection of a replacement (for the purposes of consultation: 8 storey (plus overruns and rooftop paraphernalia)) hospital building (Class C2, for the purposes of consultation: includes ancillary cafe and school) with a basement (for the purposes of consultation: 2 storey), landscaped amenity spaces at roof top and balcony and ground floor levels, plant equipment, cycle storage, refuse storage and other ancillary and associated works pursuant to the development.

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings has a long association with Great Ormond Street. Before its move to Spital Square in 1983 SPAB occupied Nos. 55/57 Great Ormond Street, a pair of the Queen Anne houses that form such an important part of the south side of the street. The SPAB has been involved on several occasions with campaigns to save early houses in Great Ormond Street.

In the 1930s the SPAB sought to prevent the destruction of several very fine early 18th century houses on the north side of the street, houses that were eventually demolished for the construction of the hospital buildings that now comprise the application site and are themselves now proposed for demolition. The importance of this campaign, featured at the time in the national press, resulted in the salvage of materials from the old houses, and certainly influenced the scale of the new buildings that were subsequently built on the site by the hospital. The four-storey scale respected that of the old houses opposite.

In the 1960s and 70s the SPAB also campaigned vigorously to prevent the destruction of the early Georgian houses at the eastern end of Great Ormond Street. The SPAB considers the houses on the south side of Great Ormond Street to be some of the rarest and most remarkable surviving terraces of late 17th/early 18th century houses in London, buildings which have been in continuous residential use since their construction. The SPAB is now greatly alarmed that the scale of the proposed new building on the north side of Great Ormond Street threatens to overwhelm the setting of the houses on the south side of the street and constrain their use by depriving them of much of their natural daylight.

SPAB urges the applicant and the local planning authority to seek a solution that will reduce the scale of the proposals so that the impact is less harmful.

With best wishes

Christina Emerson



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