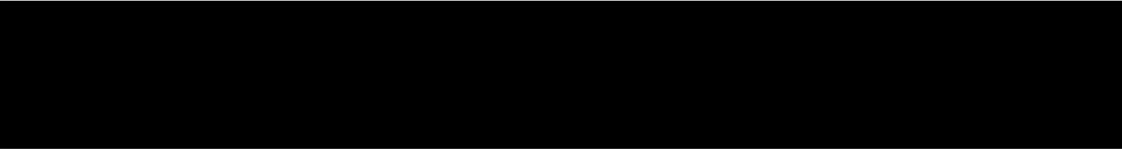




Subject:

2022/3853/P



Dear David

I am writing to register an objection to the observation wheel, which forms part of a much larger proposal for developments in and around the West Yard. This objection does not include plans for Dead Dog Basin and other projects in the vicinity, which seem acceptable but which, according to the application, rely on income generated by users of the observation wheel.

The observation wheel itself would have a strong negative effect on the local environment. The argument that the wheel will be temporary is not convincing and I believe that the London Eye was also designed to last for a limited time. The Residents Association is located in four nearby roads and the wheel would certainly impact on my neighbourhood as well as the canal which it would overlook. It would be seriously intrusive, without adding anything of cultural relevance. I have often been critical of the Markets and, in particular of the licensed activity within them, but it is only fair to say that care has been taken over the built environment and over the detailed changes and additions to the Market structures. Additions to the Stables Market, for instance, have taken into account the history of the market in relation to the canal and the horses that worked nearby. A fairground attraction of the kind proposed does not relate to anything which currently exists. Nor is there anything in the proposal which relates to Camden as a whole. It is apparently purely and simply a money spinner.

If built, the wheel would no doubt attract more visitors. Already at the weekend the number of visitors is huge and it is often difficult to use the pavements safely at peak times. The noise and litter spread into the residential streets in which we live and the problem would be made worse if this application succeeds.. It is interesting but sad that the presence of the Markets seems to have had a negative effect on local retail and restaurants, as the rows of closed shops on Chalk Farm Road demonstrate. And it is most unlikely that the wheel would be of interest to residents. Even if it did generate an income for Lab Tech, it would have no spinoff for local businesses and no benefit to residents. I have not seen the results of the consultation with residents, but it should be made available as a back up to the planning process. I suspect that local residents are of one mind in disliking the idea of an observation wheel in this neighbourhood and very much hope the application will be rejected.

With best wishes

Patricia Thomas, Chair

