
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 November 2022 16:13
To: Planning Planning
Cc: David Fowler; [REDACTED]
Subject: ref: 2021/2945/P One Museum Street - OBJECTION
Attachments: PastedGraphic-1.tiff

To the Planning people:

I am writing this email to you to formally object to the office block that has requested permission to develop the former Travelodge into a new block of offices along with new residential units.

It is my opinion that:

We have endured several years of roadworks, road closures and business closures in this area and it struggles to survive.

I have seen no discernible increase in any sort of business activity on New Oxford Street, and the area is a blight which I call NOHO. Because we were once told by our MP in a face to face meeting that it is really no use complaining as Camden Council really only cares about the area north of Euston Road as Bloomsbury is full of 'tourists and students' and that 'nobody really lives there so we cant spend money on the infrastructure for you'.

That being the case, the building proposed will most likely be partially empty after completion in several years, the local businesses will suffer for the disruption during the duration and if rents continue to increase as they do, in several years the only businesses left to any retail space will be the big chains that are subsidised by the government and can afford to operate at a loss. We are unable to have the option of stratifying the losses in our business across multiple city locations. The small businesses were forced to close during covid while the big chains continued to operate without the hassles.

Much of any retail space offered will likely put smaller businesses out of business who offer the same services and as evidence of this many of the retail spaces at the post office building are empty after years of being on the market.

Those empty spaces are eyesores in themselves as the windows are not clean, the advertising for the space have become fixtures along High Holborn and Bloomsbury Way.

I think the Travelodge is an eyesore but keeping it in place and redeveloping the space would be just as ugly as ugly as Centre Pointe which remains empty as well.

As far as any residential space is concerned, it will most likely be snatched up by the friends of the builders and while they rent out the lower floors units to people who will struggle to pay their rent, they will probably keep the higher levels with outdoor spaces for themselves and they may even eventually sell them off plan for a substantial profit. How does any of that help or support the local economy?

I would venture to guess that anyone who works in the offices would struggle to actually live in the Bloomsbury area and certainly the people who would work in any shops or do the cleaning would not be living in Bloomsbury.

So at the end of the day and the end of the week when all the workers go home outside London we are once again left with an empty building on a weekend evening that has a security guard at the desk watching Youtube on his laptop while the interior office lights compete with the dome of the British Museum to illuminate this historic area.

I could write more but you get the point.

Kind regards, Joseph

