

## **Public Inquiry:**

**APP/F5540/V/19/3226900**

**LPA Ref: 01508/A/P16**

### **Comments from the West Chiswick and Gunnersbury Society (WCGS)**

#### **Introduction**

A. As a society, WCGS not only tries to protect and enhance the quality of life for those who live in this area, but we also take a lively interest in the broader community and our shared environment. We love our part of London and wish all those who live and work here or visit to be able to enjoy and celebrate its rich heritage and natural assets (see our website: <https://westchiswickgs.org/>). We fully endorse the importance of the promotion of local character, including protection and enhancement of Conservation Areas, as set out in Chapter 6 of the Local Plan.

B. The West Chiswick and Gunnersbury Society maintains its strong objection to the proposed development. The Society supports the reasons the Council gave for its intention to refuse the original application and endorses the Council's views submitted to the GLA on the revised scheme. We question the soundness of the GLA decision to grant planning permission and request that this decision is overturned by means of this Public Inquiry.

C. WCGS provided detailed grounds for our objections to the development within the comments we submitted to LB Hounslow on the application in January 2018 and those we submitted to the GLA in June 2018. We appreciate that the GLA will provide all comments that were submitted to them. However, should our original formatting and typefaces be lost in transmission, the interpretation of our comments would be difficult. For the convenience of the Inspector, therefore, our comments are provided with this statement as attachments to the covering e-mail.

D. We wish to emphasise that our objections related to a wide range of aspects of the proposed scheme including (not ranked in any order of priority):

- Unsuitability of site for residential use
- Negative impact of building on heritage and low-rise residential areas
- Lack of infrastructure
- Negative impact on traffic and public transport

E. As detailed in sections 5 and 6 of our January 2018 comments, we consider it unacceptable to locate family housing, a nursery and outdoor play-space in areas with high levels of air pollution and noise. The communal and public outdoor spaces at ground and podium level will all be exposed to these high levels without the possibility of mitigation. This will have a negative impact on the quality of life and health of future residents by preventing them from adopting active, healthy lifestyles. This will be especially detrimental for children who should be encouraged to play outdoors but who are at greater risk from air pollution, both in terms of development and immediate and long-term health.

F. We request that due weight is given to the cumulative harm to existing townscapes and heritage assets and to the amenity and quality of life of the existing residential communities of the proposed scheme and others recently built, under construction or consented in the East Brentford/West Chiswick area.

G. The proposed development should seek to mitigate not increase and intensify the negative influence of the consented Lionel Road (Brentford Football Stadium) Scheme\* on the surrounding heritage, including the low-rise residential Conservation Areas. As detailed in section 8 of our January 2018 comments, the scheme originally proposed by L&Q would compound the harm by introducing 5/6 more high-rise towers into the settings of these Conservation Areas. Further harm would result from the increase in the height of Core 3, by two storeys, from 15 storeys to 17 storeys within the revised scheme. The loss of articulation would amplify the overbearing nature of the scheme.

\*This scheme was deemed an exception – a unique case due to the public good of the community value of the football stadium. The heights of the residential tower blocks were “necessary” to fund the stadium.

### **In Conclusion**

The Society earnestly requests the Inspector to recommend that the Secretary of State refuse planning permission for the amended application.

WCGS  
5 June 2019