

To Cllr Steve Curran.

13.01.2017  
BCC 782 dmb

Dear Steve,

**Plans for Waterman's Arts Centre in Brentford.**

Some time ago you advised us that the Council were considering plans to re-locate the Waterman's Arts Centre on the site of the former Police building in Half Acre, together with 100% affordable housing. This would release the present site of the Arts Centre and the Max Factor offices for high quality housing. The new Arts Centre would have continuity and would be about twice the size of the present building.

Since then we have met London Green, the developer, and discussed their proposals with them. At that stage the BCC did not object to the concept, but were concerned that the proposed housing on both sites was over density and that the buildings on the river were higher than both Albany House and Goat Wharf.

We were also concerned that the new Arts Centre, which now relies on clients over an extensive catchment area, would have no on-site parking. We knew that many patrons now use the car park and that more might wish to do so if the centre was larger.

We have subsequently learned that London Green's development plans are well behind programme, that serious objections to the height of the proposed housing on the Waterman's site are being raised by Kew Gardens and by Historic England and that the housing proposed for Half Acre might not be 100% affordable. It has been suggested that only 15% might be achieved.

Some of our members have always held the view that the Waterman's river-side site was what made it unique and that the land should remain a public asset. This view was more fully endorsed at the meeting the BCC held this week and I have been asked to write to you to suggest that the proposal to move the Arts Centre away from the river should be dropped.

Instead we would look to the progressive redevelopment of the present river side site now occupied by Waterman's and the Max Factor offices.

The new buildings would provide for a new Arts Centre at basement and ground floor and for a limited amount of high quality housing. No part of the development would be more than four floors above pavement level.

We look forward to the Police building being a lower building with 100% affordable housing.

Our meeting was attended by two Hounslow members as well as representatives of the Gunnersbury and West Chiswick Society, OWGRA and Kew Gardens so that you may consider these views are widely held.

You will remember that we raised the question of a public meeting on the Brentford developments and we understood from Theo Dennison that this would be arranged by the Council in January.

We would ask you to reviews the plans for our town centre sites and then to share your views at a public meeting.

We would ask you to arrange this before the planning application for the Morrison site is taken further. Our responses to the formal consultation on that application have been sent to Shane Baker and will be copied to you and ward members,

Sincerely

Denis Browne  
Chairman, Planning Consultative Committee  
Brentford Community Council

Cc Ward Members  
Ruth Cadbury MP  
Shane Baker (Development Control)