

MEDIA RELEASE

CAMPDEN HILL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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ENGLISH HERITAGE SLATES HOLLAND PARK SCHOOL PLANS

In the latest critical blow for the beleaguered plans for selling off land at Holland Park School for residential development and to build a new school, English Heritage has slated both aspects of the proposal.

In relation to the new school building, the report says there is “concern regarding the harm to the character of the Holland Park Conservation Area that will ensue from the intrusion of the roof line of the very large slab block that comprises the school building into the view of above the tree canopy.”

In relation to the proposed housing, the report says: “I also have serious concerns regarding the harm to the character and appearance of both the Kensington and Holland Park Conservation Areas resulting from the contextual inappropriateness of the materials and the elevational treatment of the residential block.

The report continues: “The lack of architectural detailing, together with the universal application of reconstituted Portland stone cladding has produced a building that is visually intrusive in this sensitive location abutting the eastern perimeter of Holland Park, a Grade II Registered Landscape.”

The damning report concludes:

“English Heritage urges your authority to seek a reduction in the overall height of the school building and fundamental revisions to the elevational treatment of the residential element of the development which has a monolithic appearance.

Both these elements of the scheme should be amended to ensure that the overall development will not be detrimental to the character and appearance of the Kensington and Holland Park Conservation Areas and cause harm in the context of the wider historic environment.”

David White, Chairman of the Campden Hill Residents Association said:

“This is yet another damning architectural report on Holland Park School. First it was the Council’s own architectural panel, now it’s the national heritage guardian for this country. Surely the Council must now take stock and pause before rushing to a planning committee decision next week. But will the Council listen to anyone or are they determined to be their own judge and jury on their own proposal? “

ENDS

Notes

1. For further information please contact Nick Sutcliffe on 020 7529 1768.