

CAMPDEN HILL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

29 MAY 2008

DAMNING REPORT DELAYS HOLLAND PARK SCHOOL APPLICATION

A damning report from the Royal Borough's own expert Architects review panel has delayed the Holland Park School planning application just days before it was due to go before a Major Planning Development Committee hearing at the Town Hall.

Design Officers released the report today after the expert reference group met on 7 May and reviewed the planning application material. The report is so critical that an expected committee hearing on 22 May was cancelled.

Reacting to the report, CHRA Chairman David White said: " We are delighted we see that our concerns about the design of the school and its impact on the Kensington and Holland Park Conservation Areas is shared by the expert panel. They recognise that the school building is too high and too bulky and poorly designed,"

Among the findings of the report are that:

- The [proposed] residential development does not adequately respond to the predominant characteristics of the conservation area
- The monolithic, relentless application of a staggered façade throughout the [school] development is not supported [by the expert panel]
- The use of reconstituted stone cladding throughout is regrettable.
- The overall height of the school building is a cause for concern
- This is a very large block and there is little articulation of the facades
- There is insufficient emphasis given to the main entrance
- The detailed design if implemented would date very quickly.

"Overall this is a damning report from the Council's own panel of experts and reinforces everything that has been said by objectors in relation to the current and identical previous proposals," said David White.

Ends

For further information please contact:

David White on 020 7229 5684

Nick Sutcliffe on 020 7529 1768

<http://www.chra.info/index.html>