

Andrew Dismore

Putting Barnet and Camden first



LONDON ASSEMBLY **LABOUR**

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London
SE1 2AA

11/04/2019

**Objection to planning application for Land adjacent to 20 Bury Street,
Ref: GLA/4868/01
Local planning reference: 18/01213/FULEIA**

Dear Sadiq,

I am writing to object to the above application in my capacity as London Assembly Member for Barnet and Camden,

The "Tulip", as it is commonly referred to is a bulbous 305m-high viewing tower designed to be solely a viewing platform with restaurant sky bar, rooftop terrace and other visitor facilities. It would do significant levels of harm to views of and around the Tower of London, which is a World Heritage Site. This building would not add to other viewing attractions in the capital, such as the view from the Shard and the Sky Garden in the "Walkie-Talkie" building, which it is located in extremely close proximity to this application site. Given the extremely close proximity to 30 St Mary Axe, "the Gherkin", it may actually end up spoiling the view from that, rather more iconic and useful building.

Such a building would require strict conditions imposed, including strict security measures, disabled accessibility and limits on ticket sales in peak hours to prevent congestion. I believe that you have expressed a strong view that such viewing platforms should be free to the public, which is not the case here. The new draft London Plan in fact states that "Where publicly-accessible areas, including viewing areas on upper floors, are provided as a public benefit of the development, they should be freely accessible and in accordance with part G of Policy D7 Public realm."

The applicants have included provision for use of the building by schools, however there is really very little demonstrable benefit to schoolchildren, and such views are already obtainable at other locations. There is little public benefit from this site whatsoever in fact, given it is a private enterprise seeking only to maximise profits.

The last thing London's historic skyline needs is another ludicrous phallic object, which is out of place, out of keeping, and beneficial to only the wealthy few who will pay to visit it. Whilst many other cities do indeed benefit from bespoke viewing platform towers, which often are

symbols or attractions to the city. This application does not “add” anything to London, nor is it especially iconic or special in design, and it does not even offer a unique view of London.

Bearing in mind the above, I therefore hope you will refuse this application.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew Dismore". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Andrew Dismore AM
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