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LONDON ASSEMBLY LABOUR



Andrew Dismore AM

John Hooton
Chief Executive
Barnet Council
By Email

Dear John,

Date: 03 March 2021

Re: Hendon Hub

I am writing to you with regard to the Hendon Hub consultation, and the plans for Middlesex University.

Whilst I remain a strong supporter of the University and its work, I have some concerns about the consultation process, as well as having some views that I would like to feed into the consultation itself.

Firstly, the length of time the consultation has run seems to be very short. I understand it is usual practice to run such consultations for 12 weeks instead of the 6 that it has run for. I urge you to extend the consultation period and alleviate the fears of residents that this is merely a tickbox exercise.

Secondly, some of the consultation sessions appear to have been poorly handled, and conducted without sufficient resident participation. As sessions on 21st January and 3rd February, residents were unable to contribute, and the sessions have been described as "chaotic".

Thirdly, there are allegations that data has been handled poorly. I believe these have been detailed in complaints to you by residents. I would ask that their complaints are investigated seriously.

In terms of the actual proposals themselves, I would make the following observations:

There is a real opportunity to market the campus as a "heritage campus" bearing in mind all the local heritage buildings in the area. These should have their own strategy to advise on how to protect heritage assets and how to identify them and make the public aware of their historic significance.

Leading on from that, I would urge that any plans respect the important late-Victorian and Edwardian architecture of Hendon, best exemplified by Hendon Town Hall, Hendon Library, Hendon Fire Station and Middlesex University. These are all lined on one side of the street.

It would look incongruent and ruin the historic aspect of The Burroughs to place out of keeping and modern-designed buildings along the road, when a more sympathetic approach would considerably enhance the look and feel of this historic setting.

Thirdly, there should be special attention given to green spaces. In the same way the campus could be designated a "heritage campus", it could also be designated as a "green campus" with a focus on improving the frontages along The Burroughs. There are green spaces on one side, from the University to the Town Hall. This should be mirrored on the other side, providing Hendon with some "green lungs". The plans should clearly identify green spaces and protect and enhance them for public benefit, creating a green walk along the boroughs.

Residents have also expressed concern to me about issue such as parking and the number of students. I hope to see greater detail about parking provision, especially to cover for the loss of several local car parks.

I strongly object to the plans for the Library. The existing Hendon Library is over 100 years old, was the first children's library and is an important local landmark, containing valuable services such as the Archives. It would not be suitable to house this in a portacabin for any period of time.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Dismore AM

Labour London Assembly Member for Barnet and Camden