

Dear Susie Saraiva

Re: Demolition of existing buildings to provide a civic square, new civic offices, 320 residential dwellings, a food store, 5 retail units and a pedestrian footbridge to Furnivall Gardens.

Application Ref: 2010/03465/FUL.

Listed Building Consent ref: 2010/03466/LBC and Conservation Area Consent ref: 2010/03467/CAC.

I have the following comments on the above applications:

I am writing to lodge my objections to specific aspects of the proposed development on King Street. Naturally I am in favour of the removal of the grim 1970's town hall extension and the re-development of the existing bleak concrete space to provide a pleasant civic square with trees; an environment for the community to relax, meet each other at cafes, shop (though yet another large supermarket is the last kind of shopping facility needed) and have access to a cinema (even if it is not the present one) as there are no others in the area.

I am also not against a pedestrian bridge across the A4 into Furnival Gardens, but not the design proposed - I am told by construction experts that there is no need for the obtrusive and obstructive concrete ramp and that modern engineering means that a much better looking, even elegant, bridge could be created.

HOWEVER, the proposed construction of 2 new 15 story apartment blocks of unprecedented height which would dominate the neighbourhood and surrounding conservation areas, and crucially ruin a historic, beautiful, unique and valuable part of the River Thames from the point of view of both banks, is more than abominable. It is incomprehensible, and suspect, that planning guidelines did not prevent a scheme so out of character in design, height and massing, and quite clearly detrimental to a very wide area, from reaching application stage.

If the council has any real concern for the good of the area, its future and the community, it should quite obviously reject the scheme.

Yours sincerely,

Josceline Dimpleby 