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Director of Environment, LBHF  
Town Hall Extension  
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15 September 2010

Dear Mr Pallace

### **Re: King Street Redevelopment Plan**

We are writing to object to the Council's current plan to replace the Town Hall Extension with the development as proposed by Grainger and Helical Bar.

Whilst the presentation of the plan has been made out to be of benefit to the neighbourhood it is clear that the reality will not be the case. To add multiple buildings of 7, 9 and 14 storeys in the midst of many of the Borough's historical conservation areas will end up spoiling the character and appearance of them. Indeed the listed old Town Hall that the scheme claims to revitalise will be dwarfed and hidden from view.

We were told that the new buildings would be no higher than the existing Town Hall Extension. The new scheme will include two towers of at least 14 storeys with apartments that will overlook schools, parks, homes and gardens in the immediate neighbourhood. In return, the views from our own windows will consist of densely packed tower blocks.

The raised walkway leading to the bridge, and the bridge itself, will obstruct views of the listed old Town Hall and will impact those of us who live in the Mall Conservation area. The structure will be very much more prominent than originally implied. This is especially the case where it touches down in Furnivall Gardens. It will take up valuable space in this very popular local park and will spoil the appearance of the area around the Dove and the surrounding cluster of historic and listed buildings. This area is greatly used all year round by the residents who live close to it and to whom the loss of any space will be disastrous!

We use the existing subway several times every day – for going to school, work, shops, tube station – it is the route that links the residents and families of the Upper Mall area to the rest of Hammersmith. The impact of the years of work needed to carry out the new development will be extremely disruptive and of no benefit to the people who need to use this vital thoroughfare.

It seems to us that it would be more appropriate for the council to improve the facilities available already and add value for the residents who are already living and investing in Hammersmith. Surely there are many offices already available in Hammersmith, many of them empty, which could serve the council's requirements. The section of the A4 from the Broadway to the Hogarth Roundabout could be resurfaced to greatly cut down on the constant noise, which would be of huge benefit to residents and also to users of Furnival Gardens. If the existing subway was opened up, given improved landscaping and imaginative treatment of its walls and floors, it will provide safer and more attractive access to the river frontage. The cinema could use some attention but it is the first choice venue for local families and young people who would otherwise have to travel to Westfield, Shepherds Bush or Fulham to see films – please do not get rid of this valuable amenity!

We urge you to reconsider this inappropriate development and the impact that it will have on all of us!

Yours sincerely

Richard and Rebecca Kateley

cc.

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