

## OBJECTION TO PLANNING APPLICATION HGY/2022/1211

Hornsey Town Hall Trust (registered charity no: 1133610) is an independent buildings preservation trust which has been working to secure the appropriate restoration of Hornsey Town Hall and the Town Hall Square for almost two decades.

Hornsey Town Hall Trust objects to the planning application to erect a pergola on the edge of the Town Hall Square for the following reasons:

1. The documents submitted on behalf of Fatto a Mano make scant reference to the design principles behind the newly-reworked Town Hall Square. For example, the planning history section of the covering letter of the application refers to previous external seating and canopies but makes no reference to the design and consented plans for the Square.

We believe the proposal to erect a permanent structure is unsympathetic to the overall re-design of the Square which is based on Reginald Uren's (the original Town Hall architect) vision. The Trust has long argued for a holistic approach to the restoration of the Town Hall and the redesign of the Town Hall Square; this proposal is piecemeal and inappropriate, and far too dominant and inflexible.

We note that no pre-application advice was sought from Haringey Council which should have informed any application of this nature. From that statement, we assume that the LBH Conservation Officer has not been consulted. We would like to know if any discussions about the development have been had with Historic England.

2. The consented hard landscaping proposal for the Town Hall Square (HGY/2017/2220; document PX352 and subsequent documents including HGY/2020/1332 PX352 – Rev 05) clearly indicates that there should be adequate space between the frontage of the Broadway Annex West and the edge of the soft-landscaped area of the Town Hall Square where the benches are situated.

The proposed location of the canopy runs into the narrowest point of the north side access and egress of Hornsey Town Hall. The canopy width is 3.35m and includes

two rows of tables, a serving aisle, and planters with a fence along the edge and at least four columns set in concrete foundations (to be inserted into the consented York stone slab) for the roof structure. This leaves access width of 2.8m at the narrowest point.

We strongly believe that the installation of this permanent structure contravenes both the design intentions and the consented plans and, contrary to the claim in the covering letter, will not reflect positively on the surrounding area.

3. The size and shape of the canopy ignores the already-installed new lighting posts and the curved shape of the green.
  
4. The length of this permanent structure (26.4 m) occupies almost the full length of the Grade II glazed north side of the Square and obscures the view of this part of Uren's original design. It almost reaches the Broadway pavement (and it is worth noting that discussions are currently underway with LBH to enhance this part of the public highway) and will be very prominent when viewed from either side of the Broadway. The end view of the canopy is crude and unsympathetic to the overall design of the Town Hall Square.
  
5. The nature of the almost fully-enclosed dining area is completely antithetical to the principles of a fully accessible public Square and movement across it. When the restaurant is closed, this area will be empty and dead, and, as previously mentioned, is contrary to what is stated in the application (that pedestrian access will not be altered).
  
6. This proposal will restrict the open space for outdoor events which are envisaged for the Square. Whilst we have no objection *per se* to *al fresco* eating to enliven the

Square, we don't believe a single operator should be allowed to dominate the use of any single outside area. If this application is allowed, it will set an unwelcome precedent. All *al fresco* applications both for planning and licensing should be only allowed for removable and temporary unfixed furniture and shading and such areas should still be maintained as public areas. This principle is observed on public Squares and Piazzas around the world.

In summary, we believe this is a badly-designed, ill-thought-out and inappropriate development proposal for a site as auspicious as Hornsey Town Hall and especially in relation to the design of the new Town Hall Square now taking shape. It takes no account of the overall plans for the uses of both the Town Hall and its Square; a piecemeal approach such as this is unacceptable.

Hornsey Town Hall Trust

[www.hornsey-town-hall.org.uk](http://www.hornsey-town-hall.org.uk)