

Comment to WCC on Paddington Tower, Paddington Sorting & Delivery 31 London Street
London W2 1DJ

15/11219/FULL

5th January 2016

Although Paddington is well outside our area of interest, The Thorney Island Society would like to object to the proposed scheme because its visual impact will be experienced by people in many parts of London, especially from Hyde Park. It will be an intrusion on the skyline many times worse than anything else existing in that area.

It must be emphasised that granting planning permission for this scheme would be against Westminster City Council's policy. With respect to tall buildings, the Westminster City Plan of November 2013 (p.36) states that

'One site has been identified for a single landmark, high quality building. In other locations within the Opportunity Area, the council considers that high buildings could not be accommodated without detriment to the surrounding townscape.'

The site selected is 1 Merchant Square. Therefore there can be absolutely no reason that this further proposal should be allowed.

The lack of affordable housing in the scheme should also suggest refusal. The developer's argument about the 'challenge [to] the efficiency of each floor', their view of the impossibility of either providing separate access to affordable units or shared access speak for themselves: this is not a building that would add anything to the local community and there is again no reason to give it permission.

With one tall tower with planning permission already and others under consideration or planned, as well as the already high density developments around Paddington Basin, it seems unlikely that the local infrastructure could cope with the big increase in population represented by this and other tall towers. The area is already congested with traffic and has very little local open space. The cumulative effect on local residents of the overshadowing caused by a cluster of tall buildings and the pressure on local schools, medical facilities, etc would severely diminish the quality of life for those living and working in the area.