

Dear Sir/Madam,

PA/16/03242 : 2 - 10 Cobb Street, London, E1 7LB

Spitalfields Community Group (SCG) objects to the above planning application. Spitalfields Community Group was formed in September 2011 with the aim of promoting and protecting the quality of life of people living and working in the ward of Spitalfields and Banglatown. We have over 200 members and are growing.

The current planning permission granted in August 2016 allows for a considerable expansion of the properties with the addition of a roof extension and three-storey rear extension. It also ensured the retention and refurbishment of the front, side and part-rear facade. We believe this retention to be an important factor in retaining the character and heritage of the Wentworth Street Conservation Area. To demolish and rebuild the facades would be to erode the character of the buildings and would be detrimental to this important conservation area which stands out against the gradual creep of the City. A modern facade, even if it faithfully replicates the original, simply cannot replace the character and history of the extant building.

The reasons given for this demolition, namely that it would save both time and money, simply are not compelling enough. The existing facades have served the buildings well for a century and with suitable care and refurbishment could do so for many years to come, while retaining the important link with the history of the area. A terrace of buildings of a similar age was recent preserved as part of the controversial Norton Folgate development. We see no reason why these buildings should be treated differently.

We therefore ask that you reject this application.