

with regard to the proposals SOHO. please acknowledge receipt



Follow up. Start by 13 July 2020. Due by 13 July 2020.

Fri 10/07/2020 20:57

Dear Planners

I have been looking through the proposals; I should like to raise some matters.

1. The whole ethos seems to be that of 'redeveloping' or 'developing'. I have lived in Soho for over twenty years and have also been much associated with the area for nearly fifty years. The ethos of the planning should be that of preserving or resurrecting what made Soho both distinctive and valuable.
2. With point 1 as background, there needs to be far greater concern for affordable housing and small, one-shop businesses to return, market traders, little jazz joints and such - instead what has happened over the years has been corporate bodies, big media businesses and landowners redeveloping, driving out small businesses or inflating property prices. Look at what has happened over the last fifty years. Consider, for example, the way Berwick Street market has been going.
3. With point 1 as background, with regard to air pollution, noise pollution, light pollution, the casual attitude of permitting yet more higher buildings is madness - unless the main aim is to destroy Soho for residents and small businesses. I judge that the corporate world in the main has that aim; so long as it can bring in the spending power of outsiders, anything goes.
4. There needs to be far greater emphasis on the dangers of noise pollution - be it from airconditioning units, late-night bars, 'super-cars' treating Soho streets as a fun racing tracks - or the current preference for more and more street drinking with the consequent urination on doorsteps, rowdy behaviour and so forth.
5. I have seen the submission of Peter Schultz, of 11 Meard Street, W1; let me say that I support the substance of his points.

I should like to place the above on record - if only because in fifty years' time when historians are engaged in PhD projects (unless all education has been reduced to business studies and astrology), they may be interested to see how a few local voices sought to hold out against the corporate commercialization and destruction of a special little area - and, no doubt, see/hear how those local voices failed.

Yours

