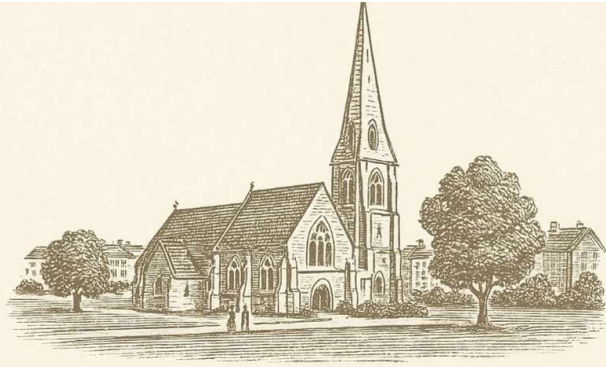


A village worth respecting



We are fortunate to have lived, worked, or studied in Blackheath, one of the most historic and beautiful corners of London. But we are deeply concerned by the threat to the harmony, attractiveness, and economy of Blackheath Village by Acorn's plans to build three large blocks of dwellings on the station car park. More than 650 objections and a meeting with the developer jam-packed with 200 deeply concerned residents and business owners shows the deep strength of feeling against the plans. We would like to add our voices to the objections.

No one objects to appropriate development of housing on the station car park, but critically, the most significant development in the centre of the village since the last war should maintain or even enhance the historic qualities of Blackheath. This overbearing, unsympathetic design destroys rather than improves the look and feel of the village and the Blackheath Conservation Area.



[Source: "Design and Access statement", section 10.2, page 36]

The scale and design of the buildings show no regard for the surrounding area, overshadowing the neat, attractive, terrace of Collins Street and overlooking John Ball Primary School early years playground.



[Source: "Design and Access statement", "Proposed CGI", page 73]

The dramatic loss of parking and the uncertainty around the future of a Farmer's Market which will be partly shoehorned into a narrow strip of the car park, threaten the viability of the independent shops in the already struggling Village. Blackheath will become a ghost village.

In addition, the heavy construction traffic in the narrow surrounding roads threatens the safety and peace of the local streets.

All this without consultation, especially with local shop owners, and without a convincing plan for affordable housing.

We urge the Council to reject this plan. Once the unique character of Blackheath Village is destroyed it can never be revived. It will be lost for ever.

Sincerely,

Alan Coates (Musician - The Hollies, Broken English) - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Hollies

Angie Bain (Actress) - <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1239711/>

Barney Ronay (Senior Sports writer – Guardian) - <https://www.theguardian.com/profile/barneyronay>

Barry Sheerman (longstanding Labour MP and clean air activist) - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barry_Sheerman

Blake Morrison (Author) - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blake_Morrison

Chris Difford (Musician – Squeeze) - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chris_Difford

Dominic Cooper (Hollywood Film Star) - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dominic_Cooper

Emma Johnson (Musician) - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emma_Johnson_\(clarinettist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emma_Johnson_(clarinettist))

Felitsa Birnberg (Activist) - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benedict_Birnberg

Graham High (Artist) - <https://haikupedia.org/article-haikupedia/graham-high/>

Heather Gilmore (Actress) - https://extant.org.uk/pathways_year_1_a_scintillating_start

Jim Moir (aka Vic Reeves) (Comedian) - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jim_Moir

John Willis (Author) - <https://www.blackheathhalls.com/whats-on/john-willis-the-peoples-war/>

Katherine Parkinson (Actress) - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katherine_Parkinson

Kellie Shirley (Actress) - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kellie_Shirley

Kim Goody (Actress and singer) - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kim_Goody

Nick Ferrari (Broadcaster) - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nick_Ferrari

Sarah Hadland (Actress) - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sarah_Hadland

Sandie Shaw (1960s icon) - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandie_Shaw

Seamus Beaghen (Musician) - <https://www.discogs.com/artist/267794-Seamus-Beaghen>