Objection to 15/0665/S73 from Councillor Herbert

I want to object to changes in design which go backwards compared to the original plans, and activity at this site in breach of planning approval, and ask that the Planning Committee consider the application for three reasons:

a Cycle storage

The proposed revision makes cycle provision significantly worse as

- the relocation will make the racks less convenient and reduce usage,

and

- the "high-low cycle racks at 400 mm centres" are not fit for purpose as such racks are not used at their claimed capacity because of the collision of handlebars of different designs, so the changed provide lower capacity compared to stated capacity of say 20 cycles, when only 10 can be accommodated in practice.

The resulting loss of open space is also a backward step and avoidable.

B Waste and recycling facilities and waste disposal

Again, the new proposals are not as good as earlier proposals, introduce avoidable new structures and risk worse waste and recycling management.

I am concerned also how the subsequent Management Company will manage these facilities as expecting them to shift waste bins on a regular basis is asking for trouble. If visible trash, foul odours or vermin are the result, this will affect life on this site and potentially also neighbours. This site is likely to be overwhelmingly dominated by tenants, including potential for significant turnover, and weak waste and recycling provision could cause public health and environmental problems later.

I also want to raise a further objection because the developers are proceeding with works in advance of, and without, planning approval

C Block N

Construction of Block N in the revised s73 application location has already proceeded, with bricks and blocks laid, I presume on the presumption of approval of the S73 application to move its position.

It is wrong for the developer to commence without permission.

I am concerned also to see early evidence of a possible wider intention by the developer to cut corners and develop the site without consideration of the impact on neighbours, along

with reports from nearby residents of site operations outside hours approved in the original application, and I want the planning authority to be clear that such actions are totally unacceptable.