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Comments by: Stephen Morpurgo

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Submission: Objection

Comments: I was at the public presentation and was amazed at the very short notice given for residents to register their comments. The few days allocated to register comments, when many are away over Easter, is unfortunate to say the least.

I do not understand how the planning application fulfils the Trust's Creative Vision, namely to create ?a world class model of civic renaissance, an arena for all that harnesses the spirit of progress, community, creativity and enterprise for future generations in Haringey, London and beyond?. At the presentation, the Creative Trust, in the face of hostility regarding the lack of parking provision, stated that the planned restoration is "mainly for the local community". 123 flats in tower blocks in the centre of Crouch End is not something the community wants.

A lack of parking space, especially for such income earners as orchestral rehearsals, will severely limit the income potential and thus the long term viability of the project. This will also have a major impact on neighbouring streets which both the council and the Creative Trust are keen to ignore and play down. When asked why the housing could not be "parking free", the council advised that the "PTAL is too low". Yet in the same breath they told us that public transport is the answer to residents' worries about more cars flooding their already overfull roads.

If the restoration is "mainly for the local community", the single most demanded feature the local community requested at every previous consultation was overwhelmingly a cinema. This is not even in the planning application. There is a "black box" and the Trust have advised residents simply that a cinema "is under consideration, and it?s not ruled out".

I believe the planning application is therefore critically flawed in not fulfilling its brief, and as a result, in many of the details presented in the application and to the public.

Stephen Morpurgo, Birchington Road, N8