



Ref: PA/23/02117/NC - 3-11 Vallance Road, Tower Hamlets

This committee is extremely surprised and concerned to learn that apparent plans are being prepared which would effectively destroy this uniquely preserved section of past Whitechapel. We would **strongly object** to what is currently proposed being carried out.

In 2014, when it was proposed to demolish this surviving run of 19th-century buildings, which originally formed a distinctive side façade matching the Pavilion Theatre behind, a complex associated with Whitechapel's Yiddisher past, well-informed objections were made by the East End Preservation Society, among other bodies. It was agreed then that the terrace of shop-buildings should be kept - though it is observable that no coherent further plan seems to have been made for their re-use.

Now, however, it is claimed in the current Planning Statement that "While it is recognised that the demolition will lead to an element of harm... [to the adjacent conservation area] ... this is regarded as less than substantial and short term" - a completely nonsensical remark. Demolition is demolition. If this terrace goes it will be completely lost; and vague further suggestions from the Council, that certain elements of the buildings "might be recorded and stored" carry no conviction or realism. Experience has shown that the likelihood of such remnants being remembered and brought of out storage suitably for "re-use", is negligible.

We strongly suggest that this valuable surviving remnant of the East End's past should be Listed and suitably restored, either for commercial or residential uses.

In the post-WW2 era, the East End suffered more than any other London area from wanton and pointless demolition, and only the intervention of several powerful national figures in the late 1960s managed to prevent the complete loss of its historic landscape. It is distressing to find that even now, fifty years later, lessons learnt then are still apparently being ignored.

Vicki Fox (Hon. Secretary)
LAMAS – Historic Buildings & Conservation Committee

5 February 2024