

Planning application 2009/2673, 117 Wilton Way

Comments:

The Hackney Society, while supporting the demolition of the existing Bullion Rooms feels that the proposed scale and massing of the new build theatre and residential units will overshadow the historic Sylvester Path. The scale of the development will also adversely affect the setting of the adjacent listed buildings, which are also of historic interest. We hope a reduction in mass and number of storeys will be made before planning permission is granted.

The Hackney Society would also like to see the 'drover's wall' retained as part of the scheme. This wall is the surviving boundary wall of Spurstowe's almshouses – originally built in 1666 by Dr William Spurstowe, the former vicar at St John-at-Hackney Church. The almshouses, rebuilt in 1819, were a single-storey range of brick buildings with a central wide pediment, curvy chimneystacks and stone dressings, including shallow pediments over the windows and doorways. The almshouses were demolished in 1966, but the boundary wall was retained. The surviving wall uprights can be seen in a photograph held at the National Monuments Record, which is included in Elizabeth Robinson's book *Lost Hackney*. The words 'STICK NO BILLS' can be seen in this photograph and these words remain there to this day. The wall is in parts 200 years old and of historic interest. The Hackney Society are very surprised that it is not mentioned in the Conservation Area Appraisal for Mare Street and Town Hall Square Conservation Area by Butler and Hegarty Architects in 2000.