

Union St Co-working Space
18-20 Union St, Sheffield S1 2JP

13/07/23

Dear Jacob George

Re: 23/01960/FUL and 23/01961/LBC
PHASE 4 PARK HILL ESTATE, DUKE STREET, SHEFFIELD S2

South Yorkshire Climate Alliance is an alliance of local organisations and individuals who are pressing for fair and effective action to tackle climate change.

This is Phase 4 of the remarkable regeneration of the iconic Park Hill flats, a world renowned complex. The very highest standards should therefore be expected.

The scheme as a whole provides 124 units of quality housing within a very central location – in line with the intentions set out in the Draft Local Plan to concentrate the bulk of new residential development close to the city centre.

However, it has not been established that the energy efficiency of the newly refurbished flats will meet “zero carbon” standards. Since it is far more practical to carry out energy efficiency measures before new residents move in, it would be absurd and a missed opportunity not to ensure that zero carbon standards are met from the outset. This applies whether the national net zero target of 2050 or the local target of 2030 is being followed.

In line with the need to reduce carbon emissions associated with travel, there is a strong case here for radically reducing the number of parking spaces (currently shown as 84). According to analysis carried out to determine how Sheffield can become net-zero carbon, “Car use needs to reduce by 66% by 2030” [see SCC Ten Point Plan presentation, page 5]. This city centre development should place especially high emphasis on attracting those residents wishing to walk, cycle or use public transport. These flats could scarcely be better located for access by foot, bus, tram and train. As with other residential developments in the centre of the city, parking provision should be minimal.



South Yorkshire Climate Alliance is supported by a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund

An additional argument for reducing the parking provision is the fact that two substantial car parking areas are shown taking the place of existing green amenity space of particular value to residents in Phase 1 of the redevelopment. The mental and physical health-giving properties of these green spaces should not be underestimated. They also mitigate the tendency of a “heat island” to build up. Parked cars would intensify it. Where green space is at a minimum, it should be safeguarded. (This proposal contrasts with Pounds Park where parked cars have been replaced by a much valued park in the Heart of the City.)

On these grounds, we resist the approval of the applications as submitted, and urge officers to seek both modifications on energy efficiency measures and the removal of the two “parking plateaus” at the north end of the site so as to retain amenity green space.

Yours sincerely,

Jenny Carpenter,
on behalf of South Yorkshire Climate Alliance

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