The British Library: Building the Future at St Pancras

Roly Keating, CEO
LIBER Architectural Group – 24 April 2024
British Library Act 1972

CHAPTER 54

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Sects.
1. The British Library.
2. The Board.
3. Transfer of British Museum Library.
4. Further provisions as to the Board.
5. Finance and accounts.
6. Consultation on terms and conditions of employment of staff.
7. Clauses.

Source:—The British Library Board and its Advisory Council.
Colin St John (‘Sandy’) Wilson
Colin St John (‘Sandy’) Wilson

M J Long
British Library awarded Grade I-listed building status

Structure once called ‘one of the ugliest buildings in the world’ in parliament and denounced by Prince Charles now ‘one of England’s finest modern buildings’

The British Library, once denounced by Prince Charles as a building suiting an academy for secret policemen, has been awarded the highest heritage honour, Grade I-listed building status.

The institution, on Euston Road, London, now a victim of its own success with scholars and researchers complaining of students and tourists crowding the reading rooms and cafes, was opened by the Queen in June 1998 – more than 20
“The Land to the North”
The British Library at St Pancras
Building the future
St Pancras Transformed

- Major extension to Grade 1 London building
- 100,000 sq ft of new BL space over three floors
- New Learning Centre and spaces for events, community & business support
- New Exhibition Galleries – doubling overall volume of gallery space
- New community-focussed foyer with entrances to East and West
- Permanent HQ for Alan Turing Institute
- Rentable space for life sciences and other Knowledge Quarter tenants
- Underground infrastructure for Crossrail 2
Engaging with the local community

- 5x webinars with local stakeholders and community representatives in November and December 2023
- 63 pieces of online feedback received on proposals
- 90 stakeholders and additional meetings held
- Appearance in Camden New Journal newspaper
- Consultation website online and updated regularly, including videos of webinars and two Camden Council’s
- 13,000 people in local area received two letters informing of Camden Chief
- Engaged local groups to reach hard to reach people in the community
- Social media advertising reaching over 80,000 people
- 2x development management forum’s with Camden Council
- Meetings held with local organisations including Camden Young Citizens Scientists
- Letter signed by 65/66 W Van Nieuw
- With Camden Council on 25 October 2020
- Over a dozen meetings with Camden Council officers to discuss the emerging designs
New northern foyer: welcoming, multi-functional, diverse
Learning

- 53,000 school visits per year
- 100% of Camden schools
- 5,200 adult learners
- 2400 Access & Inclusion visits
- 8640 family visits
Business Support

- New incubator space accommodating c60 start-ups
- New maker space facilitating c7200 visits
- 1800 attendees to B&IP events
Events

- 126k visitors to cultural events pa
- 74k visitors to commercial events pa
- £1.4m commercial revenue pa
Exhibitions

- 227k visits to major exhibitions
- 1M visits to Treasures etc.
- £2m net revenue
Green Spaces & Diverse Habitats
Sustainable Development

1. Partnerships to magnify the positive outcomes of the BL project across wider communities
2. Creating an inclusive place that adds social value to the local Camden area and community
3. Targeting net zero carbon and future resilience through integrated design
4. Creating a hub that supports innovation and delivers economic sustainability
5. Using the available space to focus on biodiversity quality (not quantity)
6. Using the Library project to support local residents and stakeholders