

# The Brixton Society

Understanding the Past, Looking to the Future

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*Your ref:*  
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20/00089/RUS

## **WINDRUSH SQUARE, SW2 – Proposed Memorial:**

Dear Mr Sisodia,

Thank you for your recent letters concerning the above applications. We have reviewed the proposals in the light of our comments on the earlier Rush Common application 19/03741/RUS. This is a prominent site within Brixton Town Centre, and the Society's main comments are as follows:

### **Location:**

As previously advised, the siting between the grassed and paved areas should minimise the impact on other activities on the Square, so is acceptable.

### **Overall Height:**

We would still prefer a small reduction in height (say 500mm) which would provide more effective shelter for the bench seating. This would still leave a clearance of 3.2m between the canopy and the existing paving level. The additional seating is acceptable in this location.

### **Inscription:**

Although the photomontages show a very simple inscription on the canopy, we would prefer the memorial to include a tablet or information panel providing more details about Mrs Groce and the circumstances which gave rise to the 1985 riot in Brixton. Otherwise, with the passage of time, the significance of the memorial may be forgotten.

### **Need for Robust Materials:**

We are disappointed that materials and finishes are still not identified on the submitted drawings.

Experience with the nearby Afro-Caribbean War Memorial was that its base suffered early damage from impacts from the skateboarders who frequent the paved sections of the square. An improvised solution has been to surround that memorial by plant tubs, which detracts a little from the original design intentions.

Such a solution is probably impractical in the central location proposed for this memorial, but certainly the base or plinth needs to be made from robust materials that will not be chipped or disfigured by impact damage. For the base/ seating level, thin panels, veneers or coatings should be avoided, but self-finished cast concrete would be acceptable.

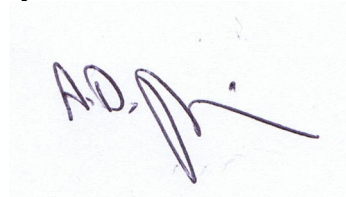
Again, for a vertical plaque or inscription, ceramic/ mosaic, screen-printed aluminium or moulded resin panels would be more likely to endure than cast metal or stove-enamelled steel.

**Maintenance:**

In the 2010-11 remodelling of the Square, the choice of materials was poor and the detailed design paid little attention to ease of maintenance or use. As a result, among Lambeth's public open spaces, for its size the Square is already more difficult and expensive to maintain.

Given the Council's reduced resources, it is important that the memorial will be easy to maintain, or otherwise that the promoters will accept responsibility for any specialist repairs that may become necessary.

Yours sincerely,



Hon. Secretary