

## **Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood Forum seeks architects and designers for phase 2 of Master Plan**

After four years of intensive community engagement, the Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood Forum's (MPNF) Community Right to Build Order – Britain's largest ever – has been submitted and on 26 January 2017 finished its public consultation. The planning documents are available on Camden's website [here](#).

The MPNF is a community group made up of people who live and work around the proposed development at the Royal Mail Group's (RMG) Mount Pleasant sorting office in Clerkenwell, London. Working with Create Streets and an expert team of architects, planning consultants and surveyors, the community has over the last few years developed a master plan for the whole of the Mount Pleasant sorting office site based on local knowledge and addressing the community's needs. These proposals were developed in response to a planning application by RMG which was opposed by the community and both local councils (Islington and Camden) but controversially approved by then Mayor Boris Johnson following a call-in.

The community-led proposal has consistently received between 95-99% local support and received widespread backing within the built environment professions. The London mayor, Sadiq Khan, has said: *"This is a great example of how big developments should work – working with local communities to design real neighbourhoods that work for the existing community."*

The current Community Right to Build Order covers only part of the overall Mount Pleasant site. The next stage is to work up **more detailed plans for the rest of the site**, with a view to putting in a bid for the site when it is put up for sale.

We are therefore looking for architects to submit designs for some of the blocks **facing onto Gough Street** in the next phase of our master plan with the intention that these designs will form part of the scheme that the community brings forward for the rest of the site. The judging panel will be made up of local residents, supported by Create Streets.

Whilst there is no cash prize, the MPNF will be working with the winner as they take forward their plans for the whole Mount Pleasant site, which include working up a Neighbourhood Development Order and attempting to purchase the site. Full details can be found on the Create Streets website [here](#).

**The Deadline is 6pm on Friday May 26<sup>th</sup>.**

Email your entries to [contact@createstreets.com](mailto:contact@createstreets.com)

### **What are we looking for?**

We are looking for designs that fit into our 'suggested response' parameters outlined below. These are only for the buildings facing onto **Gough Street** (on the west of the site.)

Proposals should be sensitive to the surrounding area and streetscape, as well as the designs for the community's current Community Right to Build Order, detailed below. The

architecture should be contextual and actively address the street. That said, we are open to creative and innovative approaches – designs do not need to echo the existing plans.

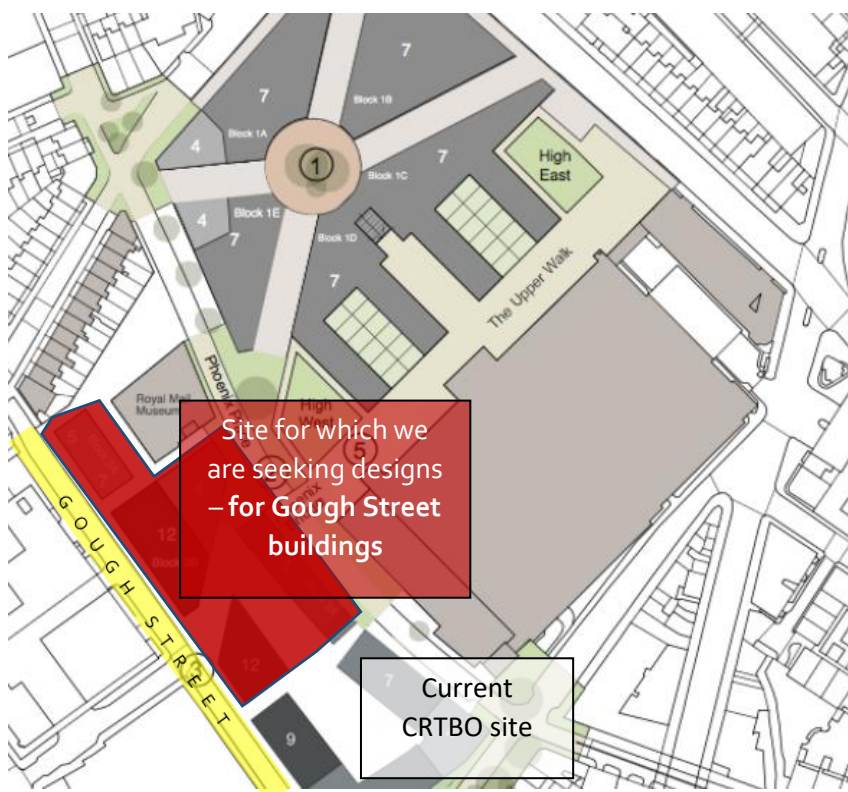
The community's approach to this development has always been to promote debate, openness and collaboration. In the same spirit, this open competition is designed to encourage deeper engagement, cooperation and collaboration among built environment professionals to help the community create a new and truly inspirational piece of London that serves the needs of all Londoners.

Edward Dension of the Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood Forum has commented:

*'The Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood Forum has always championed the widest possible public and professional engagement in the future of this important site. We are therefore delighted to now be in a position to concentrate on the second phase of our scheme and welcome submissions from across the architectural profession that imaginatively interpret the site's context, creatively challenge the master planning principles, and value the importance of community engagement.'*

### Parameters

- Included in this download are dwg and pdf files of guideline floor plans and elevations with axonometric views.
- We're seeking proposals for the buildings on Gough Street labelled in the floor plans as Blocks 2A, 2B and 3B. Our preference is for designs that address all three buildings but we will also consider proposals for individual blocks.
- Feel free to make minor adjustments to unit sizes and shapes in order to best suit your design.
- Images should be sketches or visualisations of a design. Including technical drawings is also encouraged



**Context:**

The work has been made possible through the professional expertise and assistance of Calfordseaden, Francis Terry & Associates, Urban Engineering Studio, Maddox Associates and Alexandra Steed Urban. Based on community meetings and workshops, the major reasons behind the popularity of the Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood Forum's proposals include:

- A stronger sense of place than the RMG proposals;
- A liking for the open spaces and permeable plan, which contrasts with the 'fortress-like' RMG scheme;

On Gough Street the proposals fit in with the local London character, including those of the Conservation Areas: New buildings on the east, though high in the middle of the street, will feel narrower and more eccentric and typically London than the massive blocks on the west.

Heritage and history have formed an important part of the community's designs, and the inclusion of mews reflects the local area's architectural and industrial heritage: the off-road pedestrian route that runs through the centre of the block, parallel to Phoenix Place and Gough Street, is imagined as having the finer grain of a London mews, rather than a civic axis.

You can take a look at the Design Statement [here](#) and the Heritage statement [here](#).

**Who are we?**

**The Mount Pleasant Association (MPA)** is a company and a Neighbourhood Forum established by the local community group living and working around the proposed development at the Royal Mail Group's (RMG) Mount Pleasant sorting office in Clerkenwell, London. The MPA's objective is to ensure that development in this inner-city neighbourhood serves the needs of *all* stakeholders and seeks to improve, not worsen, conditions in this special part of London.

**Create Streets** is a non-partisan social enterprise and independent research institute focusing on the built environment. We have produced co-designed master plans with local residents at Mount Pleasant, Oval and elsewhere. We encourage the creation of more and better urban homes with terraced streets of houses and apartments rather than complex multi-storey buildings.

*For any questions please contact [kieran@createstreets.com](mailto:kieran@createstreets.com)*

**Notes**

Submissions will remain in the ownership of the entrants. However, they will be in the public domain. The Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood Forum and Create Streets will have unrestricted right of use of entries for publicity and promotional purposes. The Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood Forum and Create Streets will have no liability for any unauthorised use by third parties of the entrant's intellectual property arising from this competition.