

HELP SAVE OUR COMMUNITY HALL!

Camden Council is planning to turn a remarkable and historic community hall - the 'People's Gospel Mission Hall' (now called the 'Fresh Youth Academy') - into two private houses which they plan to sell.

The Gospel / Academy hall dates from 1892. For over a hundred years it has been a treasure to the community - an ideal venue for a rare variety of activities involving people of all ages.

It has a stage and exceptionally fine acoustics which are perfect for music/drama/dance performances, rehearsals and workshops. It is the only theatre space for many miles around. It also has a large screen for showing films.

In addition, the building provides fitness training for teenagers through to over 80s; youth club events, study/training groups; and significant community celebrations. Many of its activities include those who would otherwise feel isolated and lonely.

About 40 years ago the hall was donated by a benefactor 'to the people'. Recently (in 2014-15) the building was refurbished to an excellent design and at considerable expense to Camden taxpayers. It is in sound condition.

Turning it into two houses would serve a few who could be accommodated elsewhere; as the Gospel/ Academy Hall it offers unique facilities for thousands.

We think it would be an act of senseless and unforgivable vandalism to destroy it, and a deplorable waste of taxpayers' money. We urge Camden Council to save this irreplaceable piece of our heritage for community use.