

Council halts BDP plan to demolish Victorian terrace

24 April 2014 | Updated: 25 April 2014 11:48 am | By [Elizabeth Hopkirk](#)

Conservation architect steps in to east London project

A Victorian terrace in east London once praised by Pevsner as “unusually exuberant” has been saved from the wrecker’s ball.

Vallance Road was identified in a BDP masterplan for the wider regeneration of the area as “gateway” into Whitechapel and the buildings were declared potentially unsafe.

But the Victorian Society condemned Tower Hamlets council's decision to demolish them as a “crushing blow to the conservation area”.

A campaign to save the buildings, which include a fragment of Jethro T Robinson’s former Pavilion Theatre, was spearheaded by the [Spitalfields Life](#) blog and the East End Preservation Society.

The strength of opposition forced the council to withdraw its application for demolition.

It is now exploring other options which include a proposal by conservation practice Jonathan Freegard Architects to retain the buildings as part of a mixed-use scheme with housing, retail and office space.

The practice was commissioned by the Spitalfields Trust.

A spokesman for Tower Hamlets council said: “The council formally withdrew its planning application for demolition of 3–11 Vallance Road on March 31 following temporary works to stabilise the building structure.

“At this stage the council is carefully considering its approach to the future regeneration of this site in the context of the recently adopted Whitechapel Vision Masterplan SPD (Supplementary Planning Document). It should be noted that the council to date has not formally responded to schematic designs and plans proposed by any third parties for the site but in time welcomes the views of all members of the local community regarding future development proposals via the planning application process.”

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Really pleased that these old buildings will hopefully now have a part in the regeneration of the area.

[Chris Murch](#) | 24 April 2014 10:39 pm

Very glad to see this terrace saved. Let's all hope there is no repeat of Caledonian Road though.....

[Urbanist](#) | 25 April 2014 10:12 pm

Hooray – well done Spitalfields Life and the East End Preservation Society. But be careful about the new development.

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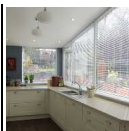
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