Alsop urged mayor to step in on 550-home west London scheme

The Avant-garde architect, artist and academic Will Alsop has questioned Sadiq Khan's decision not to challenge Hounslow Council's refusal of his 550-home scheme.

Alsop said recent planning decisions meant the reality in Hounslow was 'falling far short' of this Golden Mile vision.

Alsop urged the mayor to take a fresh look at his practice's 69,471m² scheme, saying: 'He can change his mind.'

The mayor of London has backed Hounslow Council's decision to refuse planning permission for a major housing development submitted by Will Alsop.

Interchange Way in west London just before Christmas. The mayor decided at a meeting on 12 December that he was 'content' for the decision to stand.

A Hounslow Council decision notice said the aLL Design towers 'by virtue of their location, scale, and design would cause serious harm to the significance of a range of designated heritage assets including listed buildings and conservation areas'.

A planning report from the mayor's office on the aLL Design scheme noted: 'There are no sound planning reasons for the mayor to intervene in this particular case.'

Alsop told the AJ it was 'odd' that the mayor had intervened on one scheme but not the other.

The project was initially hailed as a major part of the renaissance of the Golden Mile, an industry-lined district that runs from Great West Road to South Kensingon.

Alsop said: 'There is no doubt in my mind that the development would be aesthetically challenging.

'Should the mayor have not been content with the decision on the 550-home scheme, he would have been content to take a look at it. There is no doubt in my mind that the decision was not sound planning.

'The main reason for this was that the scheme was going to stand out in the wider context, and I think the mayor was意识 of this.'

'In terms of housing numbers and heights they are similar,' he said. 'It is a missed opportunity. These jobs are well needed.'

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Alsop urged the mayor to take a fresh look at his scheme.