



THE BETJEMAN SOCIETY

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PRESS RELEASE

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BETJEMAN SOCIETY JOINS CAMPAIGN TO SAVE LIVERPOOL STREET STATION

The Betjeman Society has announced that it is joining forces with The Victorian Society, The Twentieth Century Society, SAVE Britain's Heritage, The Spitalfields Trust and other conservation bodies to fight the proposed redevelopment of two London landmarks, the historic Liverpool Street Station (Grade II listed) and the adjacent Great Eastern Hotel (Grade II* listed).

The Betjeman Society was established in 1988 to advance the appreciation of the work of the poet, writer, broadcaster and conservationist Sir John Betjeman (1906-1984). It seeks to inform and inspire its members and the wider public through the study, awareness and enjoyment of Betjeman's life, work and influence, both in the United Kingdom and internationally. Betjeman headed the campaign to save Liverpool Street Station when it was previously threatened with demolition in 1974.

Under the new plan, Network Rail and developers Sellar Property propose to demolish the station's ornate concourse roof and replace several historic buildings on the site with two overbearing high-rise office blocks which would wreck the London skyline and affect views of St Paul's Cathedral. The redevelopment scheme is opposed by an unprecedented coalition of heritage conservation bodies, united in the LISSCA (Liverpool Street Station Campaign), and by the Government's statutory advisor on heritage, Historic England.

Betjeman Society Chairman Steve Jackson comments: "The latest plans for Liverpool Street Station would obliterate views through the glass roof and have the effect of diminishing the station completely, as well as disfiguring the wider City skyline. Disappointingly, there was no attempt by Network Rail to consult or engage with conservation groups when they were drawing up with new and hugely destructive scheme.

"As Sir John Betjeman was the President of the original Liverpool Street Station Campaign (LISSCA) five decades ago, and was a leading figure for many years in campaigns to preserve other Victorian railway stations, the Betjeman Society is proud to be associated with LISSCA and we will be encouraging our members to play a full and active part in our efforts to save Liverpool Street Station."

LISSCA has an online petition on Change.org: [Petition · Save Liverpool Street Station from destructive redevelopment · Change.org](https://www.change.org/p/save-liverpool-street-station-from-destructive-redevelopment)

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For further information, please contact the Betjeman Society chairman Steve Jackson, email sonjack1@aol.com or the Society's press officer Andy Smith on 07737 271676, email wordsmithreviews@yahoo.co.uk.