

Subject:

Change of use to residential:13 Princess Road, NW1 8JR. 2023/0113/P

Good morning,

I am not sure how far this application has progressed. The above property is a very small, dark and works very well as a shop offering gardening services. Many people locally have used their services over the decades. They are an established part of the community. The gardening business fits into the parade of shops and complements the area making it more diverse. In other words it isn't another hairdresser.

As an outsider it looks like they have been there for so long that the owner is now keen to boot them out and is looking for a way to hike up the rent. I know these aren't grounds for stopping an application but I was shocked to discover that two successful business women (Sonya and Diane) now find that their livelihoods are under threat at a time when businesses are struggling in the present economic climate. These women employ people from Camden in Spring to Autumn when things get busy. As I said before their business has been quite successful.

Within your guidelines all I can say is that the property is very small and dark and the conversion would be disruptive for people living closer than I am. I live around the corner.

Yours sincerely,

Jitka Mamo Flat 3, 55 Chalcot Road, NW1 8LY



I am informed that recently an application has been put in by the new owners/developers of this shop to change of use to residential.

This shop is one of 5 shops along Princess Road which provide invaluable service to the local community. The other local shops are on Regents Park Road and many have now been taken over by cafes/fashion shops and hairdressers. Inevitably the rents have risen and basic shops and businesses driven out. The parade along Princess Road are interdependent and provide an excellent balance of more basic services than those available along Regents Park Road. It is well known that local shops are a critical element for a community and Princess Road are just that.

The Owners of Diana Milner's garden shop are successful, profitable and provide an excellent local service. There is no reason to force them to close down and every reason to support them.

Please do not even think of granting a change of use to developers who wish to create yet another basement flat by destroying a local useful and attractive service. Each loss of a shop along that parade destroys the local community and reduces the amenity for all.

R C Seward

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