
From: Ali Negyal [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 July 2023 18:18
To: Planning Planning
Subject: objections to applications 2023/2237/P and 2023/1604/A

Dear Planning Team

Below is my objection to Planning Applications 2023/2237/P and 2023/1604/A. Please confirm receipt of this email.

The applicant fails to point out that the noise is not only from the amplified speaker sound – which is not negligible in itself. When people watch sport (the applicant lists: Queens tennis, Wimbledon, the Women’s World Cup, cricket and the Rugby World Cup), they get involved and they cheer on their side. 8 hours of that daily is appalling. Almost no one would welcome a crowd of people sitting outside their home shouting at a screen. The applicant says repeatedly that the screen faces in the opposite direction to residents, so by definition the audience (cheering crowd) will be *facing* the residential block. This is hardly a sensible strategy to minimise noise nuisance. It is not possible to manage noise levels in this setting, as we – and I’ve been a local resident for a decade – know intimately from the noise nuisance created when this screen was in place in previous years (prior to covid). We know that the applicant’s assurances to respond to complains of antisocial behaviour and noise are empty promises, and that emails and phone calls go unanswered.

The applicant themselves say that the screen is funded to “enliven” the space, so the applicant clearly realises that people become animated and noisy when they are following sport. The outdoor nature of this will disinhibit people more, because people do not seem to realise how far their conversations, cheers and shouts carry. The proposed screen location is near to many restaurants which serve alcohol so it is natural to assume that a good proportion of people stopping at the screen will have been at a nearby restaurant and will be disinhibited by alcohol.

It is not good enough that the speakers are facing away from residential blocks. The noise still carries. In summer, it is natural to have windows open. Putting this screen up pushes the balance too far in favour of commercial interests. This is a mixed use scheme, and residents have the right to quiet enjoyment of their homes. 8+ hours of noise nuisance a day is intrusive and excessive. Working from home is the norm for me following the pandemic – I work in the charity sector and we cannot afford shared office space for 4 out of 5 working days. My flat faces in two directions, and this week (for example), I had to ask a colleague to take over during a webinar with 29 participants, because they could not hear me over the cheering five stories below me.

We have sound readings that the cheering from local events can easily reach over 80dB in my bedroom, and I’m on the 5th floor. The applicant mentions noise level monitoring, but the stated limit of 8 dB does not include the noise of people attending the events and people setting up/derigging. Small children are often in bed by 8pm, but when chairs are stacked and fencing is moved, that entails banging and hammering which creates noise, too. Will the applicant actually share noise level monitoring data for once? What are the actual mechanisms for reducing noise nuisance – will the crowd be thinned? We are very used to nothing happening when we report noise nuisance to Camden Council.

We have seen a huge increase in drug dealing and toileting behaviour since the end of the pandemic and the granting of events licenses in this area. Granting this application will add to the intensity of antisocial behaviour, as existing staff resources will be stretched even thinner. The Met Police do not even send people out for intruders in our building – the advice is to “stay in” when we phone 999.

The sheer number of licensed venues and events in the locality is making our homes unliveable. I don’t think local decision makers actually understand or care about what it’s like to live here. I would welcome a Camden officer

sitting in my home during a so-called managed event, and I challenge them to say that they would want this for themselves.

From a sustainability point of view, I want to know why we accept companies using Astroturf for a limited period of time and then disposing of it when it's still in good condition. Plastic waste is plastic waste.

Thank you

Ali Negyal

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