

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2023/2990/P	John Clute	15/11/2023 11:28:57	OBJ	<p>As residents of the maisonette at 221B Camden High Street, whose front windows directly overlook the existing telephone kiosk, we are very concerned about the nature of any replacement to that current structure. That existing structure, which was installed weeks after Camden completed widening the Camden High Street pavement to facilitate pedestrian flow, has been an objectionable presence for many years now. In the highly predictable absence of any significant use of the kiosk as a public telephone, its owners/operators have used it from the beginning as an advertising hoarding, stretching athwart the line of pedestrian traffic. As we believe local police -- and can absolutely assert that local retailers -- can confirm, the primary use of the interior of the kiosk has been to conduct drug trades.</p> <p>Prima facie, there seems no reason for the Council not to order its immediate destruction. Certainly, without an application to hand which addresses the existing issues (above) and prevents the imposition of new problems (see bottom of this message), there is nothing positive that can be said about the current initiative.</p> <p>It is certainly the case, as far as we can understand from your form, that this current application now before the Council has been submitted without any description of the proposed replacement.</p> <p>As residents of the maisonette at 221B Camden High Street, whose front windows directly overlook the existing telephone kiosk, we are very concerned about the nature of any replacement to that current structure. That existing structure, which was installed weeks after Camden completed widening the Camden High Street pavement to facilitate pedestrian flow, has been an objectionable presence for many years now. In the highly predictable absence of any significant use of the kiosk as a public telephone, its owners/operators have used it from the beginning as an advertising hoarding, stretching athwart the line of pedestrian traffic. As we believe local police can confirm -- and can absolutely assert that local retailers will confirm if asked -- the primary use of the interior of the kiosk has been to conduct drug trades.</p> <p>Prima facie, there seems no reason for the Council not to order its immediate destruction.</p> <p>The idea of replacing this kiosk must rest upon an awareness of these problems. Sadly, the application now before the Council has been submitted without any description of the proposed replacement. You will note that the relevant field: "Documents for this application: View drawings, comments and other documents for this application" opens to a statement that "There are no public documents for this application." If there is a hidden route to documents we do not know it.</p> <p>Any application to replace the current kiosk/advertising hoarding should satisfactorily deal with certain obvious criteria that affect the area in general, and us in particular.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) the height must not be increased so as to impede our line of vision (from a distance of 20 feet).</li> <li>2) there must be no generator audible within a residence (unlike the generator earlier imposed on the high street through the construction of an almost entirely unused kiosk immediately across the road).</li> <li>3) there can be no facility for incoming telephone calls of the sort that afflicted the neighbourhood after installation of the kiosk over the road. The managers of this kiosk insisted that the volume set for the incoming ring was unalterable. That ring was in fact as loud as our own domestic phone. We hope that increasing awareness on the Council's part of the problems of noise pollution will be useful with the current application.</li> <li>4) there can be no lighting visible within the line of site of any neighbouring residence.</li> <li>5) the licencing of advertising hoardings on public pavements does very little to uplift this neighbourhood:</li> </ol>

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