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Good afternoon,

 Thank you for allowing me to comment on the proposed **new external shopfront to existing disused doorway creating new entrance way to basement enterprise at 213-219 Camden High Street, London, NW1 7BT.**

The development falls within the policing ward of Camden Town. The top reported crimes for the month of August 2024 (taken from the police UK website) were antisocial behaviour, violence and sexual offences, theft from the person and public order. Other offences of note for this area include robbery, drugs and shoplifting.

I have not have any previous meetings with the applicant. The comments and recommendations are from a crime reduction/prevention perspective only.

Please refer to Appendix A for relevant crime figures and legislation.

**I do not support the application in its current form.**

There seemed to be missing information as to the details of how this venture will function. There were no proposed opening times. Usage and activity around this shopfront will be key.

The design and access statement appears to indicate that both doorways will now be recessed. How does this mitigate the existing issues which are also detailed within the statement? I am not sure what measures other than lighting are being implemented to reduce the likelihood of antisocial behaviour. ASB, criminal damage (graffiti), public urination and possibly rough sleeping can occur within this recess unless it is protected outside of business hours. Creating a concealment opportunity opposite a lively night club could also provide a spot for drug dealing, drug taking and potentially sexual assault. Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is an important topic and needs to be considered in a place such as Camden with its attractive night time economy. The other shop frontages along this parade do not have recessed entrances and most facades are flush to prevent the issues highlighted above from occurring. The emergency exit vacates onto Inverness Street. This area suffers with drug dealing and usage.

I appreciate that the applicant may not wish to go into any further detail regarding their management plan and security strategy, as these documents would publicly accessible, however it is difficult to gauge if the current plan will be appropriate for the site/number of visitors.

It is important that the site is protected against illegitimate entry/intrusion, in order to help safeguard staff and members of the public.

Although not currently legislation the venue will come under Martyn’s Law. It would be prudent for the applicant to at least consider this (if the venue meets the criteria).

* I strongly recommend a roller shutter or retractable grille for this location certificated to LPS 1175 issue 8 B3 or STS 202 issue 10 BR2. Consider also anti-graffiti treatments for the facades.
* CCTV with complimentary lighting to be considered for the exterior/entrance and communal areas (internal). A formal, overt CCTV system should be installed and maintained by a member company of either the National Security Inspectorate (NSI) or the Security Systems and Alarms Inspection Board (SSAIB). Any such company will install a system to the British Standard. Images should be retained for a minimum of 30 days. This system would need to be registered with the Information Commissioner’s Office, as it could/would be recording public areas. Appropriate signage indicating this fact needs to be displayed.
* An intruder alarm/motion detection is also recommended for the relevant structures on site, to notify security/central monitoring of any activation to a prohibited area, outside of operating hours, unguarded ingress/egress points and so on. The alarms need to be compliant with PD 6662 scheme for the application of European standards for intruder and hold up alarms. Installers need to be members of either the National Security Inspectorate (NSI) or the Security Systems and Alarms Inspection Board (SSAIB) and fitted to BS 50131.

If this application is successful I am happy to assist both the applicant and local planning authority with crime prevention advice and guidance, where this assistance remains free of charge.

Further consultation is required in the pursuit if achieving SBD certification for the development is a requirement. If yourself or the applicant wishes to discuss any of my recommendations further then please feel free to contact me. The advice I have provided has been taken from the following guides:

<https://www.securedbydesign.com/images/HOMES%20GUIDE%20May%202024.pdf>

<https://www.securedbydesign.com/images/COMMERCIAL_GUIDE_2023_web.pdf>

The advice has been adjusted taking into consideration crime statistics and analysis of the area.

Kind regards

Aran

Appendix A

Camden planning response template – NPFF and Camden local plan references

**Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1988**

“It shall be the duty of each Authority to which this section applies to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on and the need to do all it reasonably can to prevent Crime and Disorder in it’s area”, as clarified by PINS953.

The NPPF and Camden’s own local guidance can support this proposal:

Section 91 of the NPPF states:

*Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which*..

b) *are safe and accessible, so that crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion – for example through the use of clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas*;…..”

Section 127 of the NPPF further adds:

*Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments*..

f) *create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible and which promote health and well-being, with a high standard of amenity for existing and future users, and where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion and resilience* …..”

Taken from the Camden Supplementary Guide to Design (January 2021 revision)

* *The Council requires that developments demonstrate that they have been designed to contribute to community safety and security.*
* *Security features must be fully considered and incorporated at an early stage in the design process.*
* *Designing-against crime features, safe access and security measures must complement other design considerations and be considered as part of a holistic approach to designing and maintaining safer environments for all.*
* *Better designed environments support safer and healthier communities.*
* *Consideration will be given to the impact of measures on the surrounding area to ensure that there is not displacement of activity into surrounding neighbourhoods.*
* *Safer environments support healthier communities.*

In accordance with Local Plan Policy C5 Safety and Security, the Council will require applicants to demonstrate that all impacts of their proposal on crime and community safety have been considered and addressed. Applicants should be able to demonstrate that they have consulted Met Police Designing Out Crime Officer (details of which can be found at [www.securedbydesign.com](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.securedbydesign.com%2F&data=04%7C01%7CAran.L.Johnston%40met.police.uk%7C79a74e93e9434dff94a008d8c9b313e2%7Cf3ee2a7e72354d28ab42617c4c17f0c1%7C0%7C0%7C637481118250278966%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=QSRH3WSaqCK1abR8Il3mGJ9n4rJlSayhGDDce5to%2FnE%3D&reserved=0)) and that proposals take into account the advice given and achieve Secured by Design certification, where appropriate.

**Policy C5 Safety and security (From the Camden Local Plan)**

*The Council will aim to make Camden a safer place. We will:*

1. *work with our partners including the Camden Community Safety Partnership to tackle crime, fear of crime and antisocial behaviour;*
2. *Require developments to demonstrate that they have incorporated design principles which contribute to community safety and security, particularly in wards with relatively high levels of crime, such as Holborn and Covent Garden, Camden Town with Primrose Hill and Bloomsbury;*
3. *Require appropriate security and community safety measures in buildings, spaces and the transport system;*
4. *Promote safer streets and public areas;*
5. *Address the cumulative impact of food, drink and entertainment uses, particularly in Camden Town, Central London and other centres and ensure Camden’s businesses and organisations providing food, drink and entertainment uses take responsibility for reducing the opportunities for crime through effective management and design; and*
6. *Promote the development of pedestrian friendly spaces.*

*We strongly encourage security features to be incorporated into a scheme from the beginning of the design process and complement other key design considerations. Internal security measures are preferred. Further information on designing safer environments is set out in our supplementary planning document Camden Planning Guidance on design.*

*It is important to take a proactive approach at an early stage to reduce risks and opportunities for crime and ASB to occur, rather than relying on reactive measures such as*

*CCTV, which should only be used as part of a package of measures to reduce crime. Incorporating designing out crime features into a development should complement other key design considerations and high quality architecture and design should still be achieved.*

*Considering good design early in the design process will lead to a better quality development overall.*

*The design of streets, public areas and the spaces between buildings needs to be accessible, safe and uncluttered. Careful consideration needs to be given to the design and location of any street furniture or equipment in order to ensure that they do not obscure public views or create spaces that would encourage antisocial behaviour. The use of the site and layout should also be carefully considered as these can also have a major impact on community safety.*

From the Camden local plan;

*“ Camden’s food, drink and licensed entertainment premises contribute to the attractiveness and vibrancy of the borough but, where there is a concentration of late night activity, there can also be problems such as noise and disturbance, littering, antisocial behaviour, crime and violence. The cumulative impact of these uses will therefore be assessed in line with our town centre policies, particularly Policy TC4 Town centre uses and Policy A1 Managing the impact of development. The Council will also take into consideration any concerns raised from stakeholders within adjoining areas beyond Camden’s boundaries. Alcohol related crime and late night disorder have been identified as significant issues, particularly within Camden Town and the Seven Dials area of Central*

*London. Camden’s Statement of Licensing Policy sets out the Council’s approach to licensing and special licensing policies apply to these areas.”*



*Line graph showing the number of crimes over the last twelve (12) months for Camden Town ward.*

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*Bar chart indicating the types of recorded crimes over the last twelve (12) months on Camden Town ward*

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*Number of crimes on Camden Town ward over the last twelve (12) months*

**The primary objective of an efficient Police Service is the prevention of crime**

Crime Prevention advice can be found on the Metropolitan Police Service Website –

http://content.met.police.uk/site/crimeprevention

(Crime figures obtained from www.police.uk and are as most recent as available)

*‘Crime prevention advice is given freely without the intention of creating a contract. Neither does the Metropolitan Police Service take any legal responsibility for the advice given. You must abide by the fire and safety regulations and if you are in any doubt consult the Fire Prevention Officer and the Council’s Building Control Officers.’*