

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2024/5130/P	Freda Matassa	14/01/2025 10:54:15	OBJ	<p>I object to planning permission being granted on the above grounds:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1.The phone kiosks are in a conservation area which is highly prized by Camden residents and thousands of visitors every year. They enjoy seeing genuine historic phone boxes with their original equipment and participate in taking photographs. The numerous visitors to the area support local traders and hospitality outlets. People examine the kiosks, enter and take photographs precisely because it is a phone box and not a craft display.</li><li>2.Changing the phone boxes to craft displays will destroy the fundamentals of their original purpose. Moreover, removing the phones, signage and original equipment is an act of destruction that cannot be reversed.</li><li>3.Keeping the boxes locked and filled with craft items and a lending library will not allow visitors to enter and see an original phone kiosk and to take photographs of themselves and their children enjoying this unique piece of history.</li><li>4.Management of the kiosks is not clear. There is a risk that the proposed schedule of opening and maintenance will fall into abeyance and the results could be an untidy and possibly vandalized problem and a magnet for stickers.</li><li>5.The proposal to install a lending library seems bizarre when there is an excellent Community Library close by. There is no mention of how this would work, opening hours, who could borrow books, how a very small lending library can function in a high-traffic area frequented by tourists.</li><li>6.Whilst the aims of Families4Peace seem excellent, it is not clear why they need to take over these wonderful phone kiosks as they say in their application that they already manage a community centre. If the aim is to attract attention to the charity, then converting two beautiful phone kiosks to hosting crafts seems misdirected.</li><li>7.The application describes the phone kiosks as “iconic” and yet it is precisely this uniqueness that is going to be destroyed by removal of the equipment that makes them phone kiosks.</li><li>8.The application states that the phone kiosks will be repurposed for 21st century needs, but the frequency with which they are enjoyed by everyone and add to the unique ambience of Primrose Hill proves that they are more than ever relevant to the 21st century.</li></ol>

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