

27 November 2013

The Planning Department
London Borough of Camden

FAO : Mr Hugh Miller, Planning Officer
By email to: hugh.miller@camden.gov.uk

Planning Refs: 2013/4690/P; 2013/4785/L
71 Hampstead High Street, London NW3
Installation of kitchen extract duct and erection of plant screen gates at rear of premises (Class A3).

Councillor Linda Chung
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Dear Mr Miller

I write in support of this application.

I understand that there have been some objectors and I would obviously be concerned on their behalf and also that of direct neighbours who would be affected if the application had not already addressed the points raised.

In creating a top quality food establishment, it is only natural that as an experienced restaurateur, the applicant and technical advisers have ensured that the extractor is fully compliant as regards efficiency and design. I also understand that inspections have been made by Camden officers as regards equipment and siting of units and they approve the quality and standard of work.

I see that technical reports have been submitted which explains how any possible noise is controlled, and in particular, how any food and cooking odours will be contained and strongly propelled into the upper atmosphere, well away from the tops of any adjoining buildings.

This is a massive improvement on the previous restaurant there, where the dilapidated flue was at an extremely low level and rarely cleaned, making life a misery for the close-by neighbours. I understand many have welcomed the application and the arrival of the applicant, who has been considerate of their concerns.

They also welcome the improvements he has already made to the rear of the site – it will now be a pleasant garden area instead of being run down and rubbish filled.

As regards other conservation and design aspects, including tree protection, I understand that various Camden officers have made many investigative visits and have been satisfied that they are in accordance with regulations and their requirements.

I add that the applicant is a reputable and well-established Hampstead restaurateur. The applicant has fully met all the stringent requirements to a high standard.

Five months have passed since the applicant submitted the application and the premises closed. I think it is unacceptable that the application should be subjected to such a long delay which has considerable detrimental effects on his business, employees, and the fortunes of the High Street. Hampstead needs good local businesses and the applicant already has a proven record of being considerate, compliant, and upmarket.

I hope there will be no further delay in approving the application in full. Please let keep me informed and let me know if I can help further.

Yours sincerely
Linda Chung
Councillor Linda Chung