

Development Control Planning Services
Camden Town Hall
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November 28, 2006

12B Elsworthy Terrace, Primrose Hill, NW3 3DR (Ref: EN06/0542)

Attn: Colin Butcher

This is a retrospective planning application for a bike storage shed – a bike storage shed that has allowed my husband and I to be much greener in our approach to our transport. We wanted to follow Camden council's initiative to use bikes instead of our car but found that having a shed was a necessity.

There has been an explosion of crime on our street over the last 6 months. Things are now so bad that we have even had an attempted kidnapping in broad daylight just days ago. More to the point of our application however, the number of bikes and scooters that have been stolen from the streets is out of control.

When our bikes were stored outside they too were regularly stolen. In addition we could not sleep well as we were always listening for thieves. It was the view of the local community police officer that the bikes' visibility was tempting them. I would like to explain that storage inside was not practical and would violate the shared freehold terms. To store them in the hall would also constitute a prohibited fire hazard.

I use my bike upwards of 4 return trips in the course of a day, so carrying it and my infant up 2 flights of stairs would be virtually impossible. We built the shed to have access to the bikes and yet remove them from sight, and secure them.

As a result of having a bike I have been able to reduce my use of our car by approximately 75%. Without the shed I will be forced to return to using the car.

I am sure that it is part of the teething process of encouraging greener transport that bike storage has not been considered. However I would suggest that it's only reasonable to expect that people will be needing to secure their bikes more as the initiative spreads. By allowing bikes to be stolen we are only encouraging an already thriving black market of crime.

I contacted Stuart Mackenzie, in the department of transport, to explain to me what Camden's policy for bike storage sheds is. He explained that while our being in a conservation area may be a factor, Camden has now included into the UDP specific requirements in new buildings to provide bike storage sheds because they feel it's so vital.

It is also our humble opinion that the bike shed is visually an improvement to the alternative of our bikes chained to a bench, rusting away. We have made every effort to make the shed as much as possible in keeping with the other storage facilities in the street.