

[REDACTED]

From: Roger Rear [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 May 2013 15:55
To: Planning
Subject: 2013/2482/P

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Orange

Dear Mr McDonagh,

I am writing to you to strongly object to the application for demolition for The Castle Pub, 147 Kentish Town Road.

I am a local resident and I have lived opposite this pub for a number of years. Although it has been somewhat neglected as of late, it is nevertheless a fine example of Victorian architecture and adds invaluable character to the local neighbourhood. As I'm sure you are aware it is built on the site of the historic Castle Inn and therefore also holds provenance for the local area. In my opinion the sensitive restoration, rather than demolition, of this building would be of considerable benefit to the local community for years to come. I appreciate there is a need for new housing in Kentish town, however this could easily be achieved within the existing building. I do not feel the addition of more commercial units would benefit the local area as there are a number of empty units already available on the high street. My greatest concern is that the site will be left undeveloped, as is so often unfortunately the case, leading to an eyesore and a focus for antisocial behaviour.

There is a groundswell of local residents within Kentish town who feel similarly, particularly readers of the award winning 'Kentishtowner' local paper. I refer you to the following link as an example <http://www.kentishtowner.co.uk/2013/05/23/for-the-wrecking-ball-historic-pub-home-to-the-legendary-flowerpot/>.

I gather that the initial application for demolition has been refused by your department for which you are to all to be congratulated. I anticipate however that this decision will go to appeal and it is with this in mind that I write to you today. As such I would be more than happy to be a named objector to any appeal against this decision.

Unfortunately I also anticipate that the owners, Clearview Homes Limited, will proceed to demolition despite your ruling as has been the case in previously declined applications. I have heard that a date has already been set for the 3rd of June. Surely this illegal activity should carry a higher penalty to discourage such actions, and I would like to know if there is anything else that the Council or residents can do to prevent this? I suspect an emergency listing of the building is not viable but I would like to know if you have considered this.

I very much look forward to your response,

Dr Roger Rear
[REDACTED]