

To Nanyaa Ampona

Application Ref: 2015/0218/P

PLANNING APPLICATION 207 BELSIZE ROAD

1. Many parts of the application form are left blank or crossed out and marked (N/A). As a result, many relevant questions remain unanswered.
2. The drawings for the proposed development are not clear. The document headed Ground Floor Plan has a drawing marked Basement Plan. This is very confusing. In other words there is no drawing for the proposed ground floor.
3. The applicant's failure to complete the form and supply correct drawings makes it impossible for interested parties to make a proper assessment. Surely these are grounds for rejecting the application in its present state.
4. The shops in Belsize Road are non-residential lock-up shops. With the exception of two restaurants and a take-away, they normally cease trading in the early evening. Even the restaurants are closed by midnight.
5. Eagle VIP Ltd wishes remain open until 2 am. This is unacceptable in a residential area, especially as the noisy comings and goings from the shop at 207 have already disturbed residents late at night. This has been in the winter months when bedroom windows are closed. How much worse it will be in the summer when we have to sleep with our windows open?
6. I would like to remind the Planning Officer that this stretch of Belsize Road is quite narrow. It has terraced houses on either side of the road. The result of this is that every sound is amplified. It is already difficult enough to get an unbroken night's sleep. Please do not add to our noise problem by allowing people to trade until 2am.
7. If you approve this application for extended hours, this will set a precedent for other businesses in our street, including late night restaurants and take-aways. This is a conservation area.
8. Tenants of neighbouring flats and shops are concerned that the extension of hours may lead to unauthorised residential use in the basement of this property. People have been seen at all hours of the night and early in the morning entering and leaving this property. There have been complaints about noise and the smell of smoke. If change of use to residential is desired, it should be clearly stated on the application form. Proper provision needs to be made for fire escape, ventilation etc for the safety of all.
9. There is also the question of parking. A chauffeuring service offering a round the clock service, with cars occupying the limited parking space currently used by residents, visitors and customers of the shops and restaurants, is likely to have detrimental effect on other businesses. I wonder how many businesses in the street have been consulted on this matter.