

Muthoora, Leela

From: Russell, Lorna (Councillor)
Sent: 30 October 2017 16:15
To: Planning
Subject: Planning applications 2017/5429/P, 2017/5430/P, 2017/5431/P and 2017/5432/P

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to strongly object to related planning applications 2017/5429/P, 2017/5430/P, 2017/5431/P and 2017/5432/P to install four telephone kiosks along West End Lane.

I am very concerned that plans would exacerbate street clutter and crime – I've set out why in more detail below.

Street clutter

West End Lane can be a very cluttered and busy road. Along the street, there are various bus stops, advertising boards, litter bins and outdoor seating areas that take up street space, and adding to this there are already telephone kiosks along the stretch of road, which are not seemingly used by the public to make phone calls.

The street also has heavy pedestrian traffic, particularly around the station interchange. Adding additional clutter to the pavement would reduce the space on the street for pedestrians, and would be particularly harmful to those using wheelchairs, pushing prams or with luggage.

I also note that the sites for the kiosk are in the West Hampstead Conservation area, the Appraisal and Management Strategy for which warns that the "street and pavements are overlaid with clutter", including with "signs, barriers and advertisements". These applications do not take account of the conservation area and the need to preserve the "village character" of West Hampstead, and so should be rejected.

Crime

The telephone kiosks would serve no meaningful purpose and in fact could have a detrimental impact on local residents by encouraging crime.

As the Met Police has set out, across Camden these types of phone boxes have become "crime generators" and a focal point for anti-social behaviour, including: the taking of Class A drugs, urination, littering, the placing of 'Prostitute Cards' and sexual activities.

I am extremely concerned that the introduction of four new telephone kiosks along West End Lane would encourage such anti-social behaviour. and therefore these applications should be rejected.

Kind regards,

Cllr Lorna Russell

Labour Councillor for Fortune Green

Cllr. Lorna Russell

Fortune Green Ward (Labour / Co-op)

London Borough of Camden