Enirayetan, Oluwaseyi

From: Young, Tony
Sent: 12 March 2018 18:10
To: Enirayetan, Oluwaseyi
Subject: FW: Planning Applications - telephone kiosks on Shaftesbury Avenue

Categories: Yellow Category

Hi Seyi-sy

You may already have this, but here are a couple of comments for x2 of your applications.

Thanks
Tony

Tony Young
Planning Technician

Telephone: 020 7974 2687

From: pimlott kathy [mailto:[redacted]]
Sent: 08 March 2018 15:30
To: Young, Tony <[redacted]
Subject: Planning Applications - telephone kiosks on Shaftesbury Avenue

Dear Mr Young,

I know that the formal consultation period for these applications has closed but I hope that you will admit my comments given that no committee date is yet advertised.

The applications I wish to object to are the installation of phone kiosks on:

Land Adjacent to 167-169 Shaftesbury Avenue WC2H 8AN 2018/0327/P

Land Adjacent to 1 St Giles High Street WC2H 8AG 2018/0325/P

Land Adjacent to 121 Shaftesbury Avenue WC2H 8AD 2018/0324/P

I am a resident of Cambridge Court, Earlham Street and witness on a daily and nightly basis the way that these kiosks are used for anti-social, criminal and violent behaviour around the selling and taking of drugs. I have never seen one used for its purported purpose. The Metropolitan Police have noted that phone kiosks are heavily used for crime and antisocial behaviour. As police constable and Design Out Crime Officer Jim Cope says, phone kiosks in Camden are “crime generators”.

In addition to concerns around the issues of criminal and anti-social behaviour associated with phone kiosks, I strongly object to the proposed installation of additional kiosks because of their deleterious impact on the important conservation area of Seven Dials.

1) The proposed kiosks fail to preserve or enhance the historic nature and unique character of the Seven Dials (Covent Garden) Conservation Area (D1 & D2). According to Local Plan policy D1, careful consideration must be given to the characteristics of a development site, features of local distinctiveness, and the wider context in order to achieve high-quality development which integrates into its surroundings. Camden's planning policy is clear that the Council expects development to retain the distinctive characters of the conservation area and new development must contribute positively to this. Para 7.46 of the Local Plan (see D2) specifies that the Council "will only grant planning permission for development in Camden's conservation areas that preserves and enhances the special character or appearance of the area." The kiosks would result in visual street clutter which detracts from the character of the conservation area and that goes against Camden's aim of reducing visual street clutter (see Streetscape Design Manual, Chapter 4). Such street clutter has a significantly adverse effect on the appearance of the streetscape and the amenity of the area. Local Plan policy C5 also specifies that the design of streets, public areas, and the spaces between buildings needs to be uncluttered.

2) The proposed kiosks' primary function would be to serve as an advertising presence. CPG1 para 8.9 says advertisements in conservation areas and on or near listed buildings require detailed consideration given the sensitivity and historic nature of these areas or buildings. Any advertisements on or near a listed building or in a conservation area must not harm their character and appearance.

3) Whilst the applicant claims a need for telephone kiosks still exists, the research and data contradict the need for increasing the number of public phone boxes and kiosks. The evidence strongly supports that the number of public telephone boxes and kiosks should be reduced not increased.

I urge the Council to reject these applications.

Ms. Kathryn Pimlott
6, Cambridge Court, 4 Earlham Street, London WC2H 9RZ
[redacted]