

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2018/2824/P	Anne Fox	07/08/2018 18:36:09	OBJ	<p>I object to this application for change of use from Launderette to Retail use (Class A1) at 54 Belsize Lane.</p> <p>The availability of a local launderette in a community is a vital element of infrastructure and an essential community facility.</p> <p>The Belsize area includes many single rooms and studio flats without laundry facilities and with occupants from a diverse mix of age, gender and ethnic background.</p> <p>It is the only launderette in Belsize Park and one of only two in an area bounded by Swiss Cottage, Hampstead and Chalk Farm. Both of these launderettes are in the same ownership, with the other, in Englands Lane, also under risk of closure.</p> <p>It is included in the Belsize Village Neighbourhood Centre, the definition of which specifically includes Launderettes (Camden Local Plan 2017, 2.60) and it is Camden Council policy under this plan to “ensure that any development in them (Neighbourhood Centres), does not harm the function, character or success of that centre” (CLP 9.23).</p> <p>Camden Council’s stated aim, in the Camden Local Plan 2017, is “to achieve mixed, inclusive and sustainable communities” (CLP 3.136) and this cannot happen without the appropriate mix of community facilities, as the Council recognises throughout the Local Plan, e.g.</p> <p>4.24 Policy C2 Community Facilities - ensure existing community facilities are retained recognising their benefit to the community</p> <p>4.43 Safeguarding community facilities - Community facilities are vulnerable to pressure from uses which attract higher land values and once they are lost cannot easily be replaced. The Council will normally seek the retention of community facilities</p> <p>9.36 other town centre uses - The Council will not grant planning permission for development that it considers would cause harm to the character, amenity, function, vitality and viability of a centre or local area.</p> <p>The launderette at 54 Belsize Lane overwhelmingly fulfils the Camden Local Plan aspiration of making “a positive contribution to the character, function, vitality and viability” of the Belsize Village Neighbourhood Centre and it’s loss would be contrary to Camden planning policy and a major blow to the community.</p> <p>Please notify me of the planning committee date.</p>

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