

Hazelton, Laura

From: Susan Wood [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 October 2018 23:22
To: Hazelton, Laura
Subject: In support of the Future Dreams House - planning reference number 2018/3956/P

Dear Laura,

I'm delighted to take this opportunity to support the creation of the Future Dreams House. In 2010 I visited Breast Cancer Haven in Fulham around 10 times, as I had been diagnosed with breast cancer in my early forties in April and was told about the Haven by a friend. It provided much needed emotional support for me whilst I was going through treatment at West Middlesex Hospital in Isleworth.

Although a while ago now, I remember that the Haven provided a very welcoming and peaceful atmosphere, which, as someone going through the trauma of breast cancer pretty much on my own, was a huge relief and source of strength for me - it was somewhere that I immediately felt 'at home'. I attended several EFT therapy sessions, counselling, a nutrition course, a talk about breast reconstruction, and a Look Good, Feel Better course. These events were a real lifeline for me during the most challenging time I have ever had to face - they allowed me a space to be heard by people who understood what I was going through and the difficult decisions I was having to make, an opportunity to learn new skills that would continue to be helpful during the years after my physical recovery, a place to relax and be distracted for a while from the ever-present thoughts of what I was going through, and simply but crucially, a space to cry and be comforted.

I was both sad and shocked when I heard that the Haven in Fulham has to close. Although I no longer call on their resources, I see them as old friends who are there should I ever need them again, and have been a regular financial donor to the Haven since my illness. I live in West London, so Fulham was a relatively easy place for me to travel to. The Future Dreams House would of course be further away, but I fully support any initiative like this, as I have first-hand experience of the vitally important role that these centres fulfil for both the physical and emotional needs of people at a very vulnerable period in their life.

Kind regards,

Susan Wood.