

Hazelton, Laura

From: Lesley Finney <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 25 October 2018 19:51
To: Hazelton, Laura; Sam Moffat
Subject: Planning reference 2018/3956/P Future Dreams House

Hi Laura,

I am writing in support of the planning request for the Future Dreams House and am giving you some background as to why it so important for me and any woman/man, who accesses the premises. My name is Lesley and I am 59 years of age. I have had cancer four times, three of these have been breast cancer. I was originally diagnosed with a blood cancer when I was 30 years old. The treatment, at that time was invasive mantle radiotherapy. Later research recognised that this intense treatment was causing a variety of cancers after treatment, including breast cancer. At that time my son was just born and my mum was dying of bowel cancer. I would have so valued having a resource like the Haven.

In 2009 I had my first breast cancer and had lumpectomy and further radiotherapy. I then had hormone treatment to reduce my oestrogen.

In 2013 I had my second breast cancer in the other breast and had another lumpectomy and further radiotherapy. I then had further hormone therapy but opted to have my ovaries removed.

In January 2018 I was diagnosed with my third breast cancer and had a double mastectomy and stomach re-construction in March of this year.

When I had my first breast cancer, the Royal Marsden nurse gave me some information about the Haven. I had had so many tests and medical interventions that I felt exhausted and overwhelmed. When I walked into the Haven I felt my body relax and felt such relief to be surrounded by the warmth of the house and of the staff who ran it.

I went on the half day retreat and used visualisation to relax my mind and body. I then then had an individual plan made with a variety of treatments. I met with a range of different people who were not afraid to speak about cancer, whilst holding the hope of my recovery. I had a wonderful of different therapies which looked at me as a whole person and helped me explore my fears, hopes and recovery.

Therapies included kinesiology, Emotional Freedom technique, coaching, homeopathy and nutrition. Meeting others helped me know I was not alone and also that we could speak about all we were going through and be fully understood.

I am so grateful to the Haven and everything they have done for me. I went back for some more support on my second breast cancer and had the same responses. The thought of the Haven closing in 2019 makes me feel incredibly sad for anyone who experiences breast cancer in the future without such support.

One amazing thing that came out of attending the Haven has been being part of the Future Dreams choir and singing at the Palladium. Not only was a brilliant fund raising event but it was a wonderful opportunity to sing out loud for all those who have lived, and died with this disease. It was tremendous fun!

The possibility of the Future Dreams House in Kings Cross is a wonderful idea. I come from Kent and therefore getting to Kings cross is easier for me and from many other areas outside of central London.

This house is so very much needed to provide ongoing support for women and men who are going through breast cancer and need a literal haven to find peace in the midst of all the terror that the cancer brings.

I have had this disease four times and I would be so sad to think it isn't there as a lighthouse for people like myself.

I would like the house to be light and bright with soothing colours. It needs to have a large room and many smaller consultation rooms. It needs a kitchen for healthy food and somewhere to get a cup of tea or water.

I found the retreat day amazing and I know that doesn't happen in the same way now but I would love to see it return.

It may well need a lift for those whose mobility is limited and wide enough doors for wheelchairs.

I can only say that I wholeheartedly support the planning request and thank you for your time reading this.

Warm wishes

Lesley Finney

