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The Black Cap Camden: Iconic gay and drag pub closed despite 'community asset' listing

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The Evening Standard



Asset: The Black Cap pub, which Google Maps now lists as 'permanently closed'
(Picture: Google StreetView)

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An iconic gay pub in north London has reportedly been shut by its owners - despite having been recognised as an "asset of community value" just last week.

[This Is Cabaret reports](#) that The Black Cap in Camden was unexpectedly closed last night after owners Faucet Inn pulled down the shutters on the pub, which has been open since the 1960s and has recently hosted contestants from RuPaul's Drag Race.

"This is a sad and bewildering end to one of London's longest-serving drag dens and a gay haunt since at least the mid 1960s," the site added.

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Bafflingly the closure follows [Camden Council's recent decision](#) to list it as an "asset of community value". The council threw out a plan to redevelop it earlier this year.

"The Black Cap has had iconic status for Camden's gay community since the 1960s as a place to meet and socialise," the council's Michael Webb wrote, responding to the application to list it.

"It is no ordinary gay pub as it also plays an important cultural role as a renowned venue for drag and cabaret performances. The pub's heritage contributes to its continued central role in Camden and London's gay scene and means that the community value would not be easily replicable elsewhere.

"The community value of the pub is not solely recreational and cultural. The Black Cap plays the role of a community centre for the local LGBT community in the absence of such a dedicated facility. The council has received evidence of its important social role as a meeting point for various support groups - particularly for older LGBT people and those from ethnic

minorities for hate crime outreach work and as a venue for events, consultations and forums. While it could be argued that the recreational and cultural value of the pub is London-wide, even national and international, these groups very much serve Camden's large LGBT community specifically."

ACV status means the pub could not be sold without community groups first being given a chance to bid for it.

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Earlier this year gay pub the [Joiners' Arms in Shoreditch](#) was granted ACV status after fears it could be redeveloped, despite an attempt to get the ruling overturned by the building's owners. Sir Ian McKellan lent his voice to the campaign to save it.

The Black Cap's owners Faucet Inn did not immediately respond to requests for comment.