

Hazelton, Laura

From: Russell, Lorna (Councillor)
Sent: 15 January 2021 10:40
To: Planning; Hazelton, Laura
Subject: Objection to planning application 2020/5683/P

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to you to object to J relating to the partial conversion of ground and lower ground floor at 40-42 Mill Lane.

The Alliance is a genuinely community-focused pub with a largely local customer base. The pub is well integrated with the West Hampstead and Fortune Green area; it supports community events such as the Jester Festival, hosts weekly pub quizzes, and is the go-to venue for many community group meetings and socials. I was therefore very pleased when it was formally designated an Asset of Community Value, and hope that this serves as protection against this planning application.

The pandemic has hit the hospitality sector hard and I'm really concerned that this proposal would compound the challenges that the pub has had to navigate in recent months. While this application may look harmless from the outset, I am worried that reducing the pub's usable space on the ground floor would significantly decrease the pub's capacity, which has already been constricted due to social distancing requirements. Further, moving a kitchen downstairs is no easy task and could lead to the pub having to close for months or to stop selling food, both of which would result in a loss of revenue.

I do not believe that the proposed community room in the basement would add benefit to the community either, given that it would not have natural light and the existing ground floor of the pub already serves as valued community space.

We need to be protecting our community assets at this time, and so I urge Camden to reject this planning application.

Kind regards,

Councillor Lorna Jane Russell

Cllr. Lorna Russell
Fortune Green Ward (Labour / Co-op)
London Borough of Camden