

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2021/1085/P	Esther Leslie	29/04/2021 09:25:04	INT	<p>1. The Function Room must remain. It showcases work of local community based artists, who otherwise have few outlets. It is a place where countless meetings and gatherings have taken place - there are very few places like it, and no other in central London. It is a space used for radical education, as in the courses run by School of the Damned. It provides a unique location for socialising, political activism, education and discussion and will be a great loss to the community should it disappear. Lockdown has made it inaccessible for some time - we have been longing for it to become available again. The Somers Town History Club was planning an exhibition there, as have local artists.</p> <p>2. This change of use to private dwelling (and I assume high end private dwelling, given the company behind it) will not be compatible with the drinking culture below, many of who share protected characteristics of disability, and the non-protected characteristic of poverty. This is their lifeline - and we are not talking just an older generation, but younger ones who would otherwise have nowhere to go in Somers Town. The only other pub is for commuters and is very high priced and does not welcome the people who drink at the Cock. The Cock Tavern is a uniquely non-judgemental pub and it carries out a social function. To make a dwelling here is to begin the closure of the pub, which will be devastating for the area and for the people who live in it.</p> <p>3. This is a grade II listed building, which has been allowed to fall into disrepair. It should be fully renovated and made as sound as the ST Coffee House, not cut into and chopped up and its decay used as an excuse to change its function.</p> <p>4. The Cock Tavern exists on a greening route. Hundreds of thousands of pounds will be put into this street to make it more attractive. If a private company gets to benefit from this community investment it will be scandalous.</p> <p>5. Somers Town is subject to excessive levels of development, much of which involves losing spaces that were previously accessible and put to community use, e.g. across the street 42 Phoenix Rd, now demolished, many pubs, the Trades Union centre down the road that is now Local Globe Venture Capitalist hub. The accessible space that continues to exist, such as the Living Centre or Story Garden, is corporatised or heavily monitored space, subject to booking and hard or unfriendly to access for many groups and people, and it does not allow such activities as were common at the Function Room.</p> <p>6. For Somers Town to be a safe and welcoming space it is essential to have a vibrant night economy. The Function Room served locals and brought people in to produce events in the locality. It is a key part of the sustainability of the Cock Tavern.</p>

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