

Rafi Miah

These comments are submitted on behalf of the Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Forum.

The information submitted with these applications is insufficient fully to evaluate them. No information is provided about who will operate and maintain the facility or how it will operate. Nor is any evidence provided that a sim card facility is needed at this location. It would be dependent on passing pedestrian custom. We question whether there is a demand at this location; there are a number of options for purchasing sim cards a short walk away in Highgate Road and Kentish Town. The application should be withdrawn until such information is provided.

It should be noted that the proposed location is in a purely residential area. While such a sim card dispenser might be acceptable in a high street context, it is inappropriate in a residential context. Part of the Neighbourhood Forum's remit is to ensure the vitality of our neighbourhood parades of shops, and those areas would be the correct location for a retail phone box. We are also concerned that it would be subject to break-ins or vandalism. This phone box has been a location for drug dealing in the past, and we are concerned that a commercial use could attract anti-social behaviour. It is also likely to be subject to littering, with purchasers dropping unwanted packaging. The new lighting will add to light pollution in the area. We are also concerned that the approval of this application would set a precedent for other phone boxes in this residential area.

The phone box is listed Grade II and the location is also in a conservation area. The applicant has not provided any assessment of the impact that a retail facility at this location would have on the conservation area and only a very minimal assessment of the impact on the listed phone box. Again, the application should be refused or withdrawn in the absence of such an assessment.

We also believe the best use for this phone box is to be maintained as an operating phone box. Its conversion to a different use would disadvantage tourists, older people and younger children who may not have mobiles.

Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Forum

Planning Sub-Committee