

08 May 2022

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Dear Jane Wilie

389 Kentish Town Road, NW5 - Application: 2022/1125/L
BULL AND GATE PH, Redecoration and Repair to Exterior

Decoration: The current external decoration, in black, covered over the multi coloured features of the top four corner segments within the two 'arched' bays at far left of front elevation. Only the half round with the Bull was left as a coloured decorative feature. Earlier Google Street views show these segments coloured, while the front was then a rather garish blue. These bays till not long ago served as the entrance section to the much loved and famous music venue in the hall at the back of the PH. Is there any chance of subtly picking out these decorative features again? If nothing else as reference to local history, the memory of this once famous venue. I was unable to check the proposed intension.

External lighting: The soft warm existing lantern lighting has always stood out as an attractive feature after dark. Not long ago white bright LED lighting was introduced, without consent, at the listed Assembly House PH across the road Nos 240-242 Kentish Town Road. This was subject to enforcement and removed. It showed however the negative impact such insensitive intense light level installation made to the character and appearance of that building. Hopefully no change to light quality or lanterns with standardized logo glazing is proposed.

Two further comments, not directly related to the scope of this application:

Existing internally illuminated projecting sign: Installed not many years ago when Young's & Co took over. While it is Young's standard design, it appears discordant with the architectural quality of the building, cold and static. It was subject to advertising consent at the time. If there is a time limit on its consent, and if there are different options, perhaps the choice could be revisited.

Bull and Gate Setting: Streetscape/Nos 383-387 Kentish Town Road: An originally attractive integral terrace dating from 1790s (then 'Craven Place South', built by Thomas Greenwood – hence Greenwood Place the turning by the Forum) forms the gateway setting to the PH and the row of listed buildings north up to and including the church. Viewed from Highgate Road the flank wall of No 387 forms the backdrop to the PH. It seems imperative that outstanding enforcement issues for No 385 and the execution of consents for No 387 (2018/0204/P, 2019/3538/P) and current condition variation application (2022/1232/P) are closely monitored in design detail and use of materials.

Kind regards


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