

Dear Planning committee B members,

We, the elected representatives of Lewisham Central ward are writing to express our support for application DC/17/104854.

The redevelopment of a currently empty property, in a run-down parade of shops, is something residents have been campaigning for for years and is very much welcome.

By way of background, there has been a long-term problem with empty properties and a lack of investment on this side of hither green station. In 2013/14 there was a surge in applications for the empty Victorian shop fronts to be converted into residential units. Although some were regrettably converted to residential, the Corbett Society, Cllr Joani Reid and the local community launched a campaign to halt this, which was in the end successful. This led to the Corbett Society and many local residents working to attract small independent businesses to the parade and as a result we have seen some open. This application would add to this regeneration and restoration of a parade of shops which dates back to the original Corbett master plan as conceived in the 1870s and built in the 1880s.

We are of the view that a micro pub would be welcome addition to the parade of shops and the community as a whole. However, we do appreciate the concerns outlined by those in the immediate vicinity and the anxiety the application brings. We are satisfied with the responses from the Council's Highways and environmental health departments, the operational management statement and the reasonable opening hours. However, we (and, I'm sure local residents) are committed to monitoring any breaches or concerns which may arise if the micropub opens and will report them through the relevant licencing or enforcement teams to be dealt with in the appropriate way. The applicant has been proactive in engaging with the community and built positive relationships with many residents, which we're hopeful will continue.

The Committee should also be reminded of the council's commitment to improve the evening economy; the approval of this application would be one small step towards achieving this aim.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Patrick Codd (Lewisham Central)
Cllr Aisling Galagher (Lewisham Central)
Cllr Joani Reid (Lewisham Central)