

21/02/2022

Brockley Society's objection is to the change to planning Class E. We are asking for planning class F2(b) to be retained for possible future community use so that the building is not lost forever as a community asset.

Lewisham Way Youth and Community Centre did not close because it was surplus to requirements or was no longer needed, but because funding ran out. The application and the officers' report ignore the fact that the Centre was a vital part of the local community, particularly for young black people, from 1973 until its closure in 2016. The building is part of the cultural heritage of Lewisham and could have a synergy with Grade II listed Arthouse next door.

While on paper it may appear that there are alternative community facilities in the area, this is not true in practice for residents. There is a crying need for such facilities in both Brockley and Ladywell Wards.

We applied for NCIL funding to conduct a Feasibility Study into future possibilities for some kind of community use, but were unsuccessful.

We recognise the welcome changes proposed, including restrictions on Noise Management. But we support comments made by Gillian Davidson's report, specifically re bin disposal.

We are asking the committee to retain the planning class.

Clare Cowen

Chair, Brockley Society