
From: Farrah Mauladad KC [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 September 2023 20:52
To: Planning Planning
Cc: Daniel Pope; Bethany Cullen; Elizabeth Beaumont; Alex Bushell; David Fowler; Gary Bakall; Angela Ryan; Tom Little; Geri Gohin; Linda Chung (Cllr); tulip.siddiq.mp@parliament.uk; Andrew Parkinson (Cllr); Gio Spinella (Cllr)
Subject: Planning Portal Reference: PP-12328290 (swimming pool hall)
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Sirs,

I write in relation to the above application.

By way of general comment, I note that the applicant states that he and his family are from Ukraine. It is unclear why this ought to influence the applications he makes. If anything, it is submitted, when one considers the current conditions in Ukraine, the applicant's need for a swimming pool, art studio, gymnasium etc fall into the category of an 'unrestrained whim'.

The applicant provides the history as follows:

Planning History Planning permission for the demolition of a summerhouse in the rear garden and associated changes to the landscaping was granted in August 2021 (LPA ref: 2021/0984/P). This involved the removal of a former swimming pool. A detailed landscaping proposal was approved by Camden Council via discharge of condition application (LPA ref: 2921/5768/P) in December 2021.

When the applicant provided his initial planning application, he stated:

"We are proposing to demolish the existing summer house in the rear of the garden at 14 Greenaway Gardens, **this is to allow for the rewilding of this part of the garden as it has significant mature trees in this area. We are also seeking to decommission the swimming pool and remove the south west wall and bank of ground that was supporting it. This will convert the existing swimming pool structure into a courtyard facing toward the existing house.** As part of this application, we also seek to remove a birch tree and replace this with a mature tree in the area that the existing summer house occupies."

The applicant submitted plans for sunken terraces in the garden which were in keeping with the character of this conservation area. No objection was therefore lodged with respect to this. When he justified the need for the terraces, he said that it was Ukrainian custom to have sunken terraces with a fire pit in the middle. This has clearly changed.

A certificate of lawfulness application for five single storey outbuildings in the rear garden was then applied for in February 2023 and was refused on the 12th June 2023 (ref: 2022/5583/P). The refusal was entirely justified. Camden was correct to conclude that the outbuildings were not 'required for a purpose incidental to the enjoyment of the dwellinghouse as such'.

The applicant now applies for four individual Certificates of Lawfulness. The present certificate relates to the **swimming pool hall** and associated jacuzzi, sauna, health treatment room and dedicated shower and changing facility plus a relaxation area adjacent to it – this is allegedly for use for exercised and recreation. Why then does it need to be in an outbuilding? Many houses in the area have underground swimming pools. Why can this not be underground? Why was this not part of the original application? The applicant must have known then he wanted (as opposed to needed) one. The swimming pool is larger than what was on site and it atypical for the area. This is a

conservation area – one does not routinely see such structures in the garden. The previous swimming pool at no. 14 was an outdoor pool.

I urge Camden to stick to their original refusal which was entirely justifiable. This large swimming pool hall is NOT reasonably required. On the contrary it falls squarely into the category of an unrestrained whim. The result of the outbuilding will undoubtedly affect the biodiversity and nature of the area. Greenaway Gardens, a conservation area, is NOT suitable for such buildings.

It is apparent from the way in which matters have progressed that it has always been the applicant's intention to construct 5 outbuildings. The way in which he was gone about it has not been transparent. He hosted an event at his home inviting those who lived in the vicinity and never once alluded to these outbuildings. The application for lawful permitted development came as a surprise to everyone. His evidence, whether in the statutory declaration, or otherwise, must be treated with caution unless supported by independent corroborative evidence.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Kind regards,

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