To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to you as I, along with a number of residents on Belsize Grove and Howitt Road feel frustrated by the planning department at Camden council. I am referring to three planning applications: 2023/4773/T, 2023/4603/P and 2022/2863/P which are at the source of this contention.

These three planning applications are all linked but are being treated separately by the council much to the dismay of the residents involved and adding an extra level of complexity to the whole process.

Belsize Grove properties back onto Howitt Road properties and for over 40 years we have all existed along side each other in relative harmony. In 2022 the original planning application 2022/2863/P was put in and no notices were placed on Howitt Rd, the residents one could argue it effects the most!

Many objections were received including, from the other residents within the block of flats on Belsize Grove where the resident lives who has made the planning application. There were and still remain a number of inaccuracies and lies in their application. To my knowledge this application is still being considered but the planning department has not provided any of the objectors with an update.

During the summer of 2022 the two properties involved on Belsize Grove started clearing away the untouched areas behind their communal gardens which back onto Howitt Road within a conservation area in preparation to start carrying out works. Trees, foliage natural animal habitat, bushes were cleared away which had been untouched for years, the council were made aware and did nothing.

Then in the late summer of 2022 an unauthorised build of a gazebo was erected behind our properties, once again we complained but only after escalating the matter to the CEO of Camden council, taking a scatter gun approach to notify over 50 Camden councillors and our local MP we felt that the planning enforcement officer paid us some attention and stopped

the unauthorised build from progressing. Under what terms we don't know, and again this information was never shared with the objectors.

In the late 2023 two more planning applications were made 2023/4773/T and 2023/4603/P. The former was again never posted on Howitt Rd so many residents were unaware and 2023/4603/P was put up over the festive break when many residents were away and many residents also had issues registering their objections because Camden's portal was not working.

There is a huge amount frustration that has built up about these planning applications, which were recently covered by the ham and high: https://www.hamhigh.co.uk/news/24033981.belsize-park-residents-object-unauthorised-summer-house/

The 2023/4773/T application was granted by Daniel Pope, Chief Planning Officer and it was noted that no objections had been made, however ordinary residents had already made a number of objections about the trees being cut down in the original 2022/2863/P application. This process has been made to be overly complex and convoluted with what appears to be the planning departments blessing, one could believe to confuse the ordinary resident. Daniel Pope and many of his team have been cc'd on a number of emails relating to all three planning applications and hence are aware of how they are connected. I have been disappointed that emails have been ignored by them, left unanswered, they have provided no transparency of the process or visibility of next steps.

I believe the Planning department is fundamentally incompetent or bias, all their actions to date have led me and many of other residents to come to the same conclusion and hence we all are all demanding for the involvement of councillors to provide some form of independence in this decision making process.

Please can you kindly advise how we can proceed from here?
Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you
_____
Ruby Sheera