**Planning Application 2024/1039/P**

My husband Roy Emerson and I are strongly opposed to the development plan to put a pre-fab penthouse on the roofs of each of Darwin Court's five blocks.

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One of our biggest concerns regarding Airspace is their lack of a verified track record.

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At present Darwin Court is no higher than the villas and terraces around it. Granting planning permission for an additional storey on top of Darwin Court would set a precedent for other buildings nearby.

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Mature trees grow in front of Blocks A and E. To get a crane near enough to hoist a penthouse onto the tops of them would mean felling the trees.

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Airspace are proposing to use light beige brick shade on what will probably not be full bricks, but facing bricks. This will make these Penthouse apartments stand out like a sore thumb.

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This planning application is for luxury penthouses for the wealthy, not for social housing. It will make no contribution to the latter.

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During construction, building operations on the top of the blocks will impose an intolerable strain on the existing residents of Darwin Court for months on end, many of whom are elderly or families with young children.

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Extending the lift system (outside or inside the blocks) to reach an additional storey will inevitably lead to additional months of work on each block thereby causing access
problems to Gloucester Avenue over a long period.

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There is already a parking problem around Darwin Court for those with a disability, especially at weekends when Cecil Sharp House has a large number of visitors. The work on each of the five blocks will add to the problem.

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All the boilers and much of the plumbing and electrical infrastructure are in the garage area. Reworking this, or replacing it, to provide water and other utilities to the penthouses will cause long periods when the water and electricity will have to be turned off. So much activity going on overhead could well cause flooding in the garages and damage cars.

Ronwen Emerson