

26th March, 2024

To the Camden Planning Committee,

I represent a portion of A2 Dominion tenants at West Hampstead Square who strongly support the installation of security gates within the development. Despite efforts to maintain a welcoming environment, we have encountered several security challenges that necessitate this request.

1. **Increased Unauthorised Access:** We have observed a concerning trend of youths sneaking into the building and congregating in the communal stairwells on the top floors to engage in activities such as drinking and suspected marijuana use. This unauthorised access poses a significant risk to the safety and well-being of our residents and we require gates to help manage this.
2. **Incidents of Violence:** Last year, the development witnessed a violent stabbing incident as one of the concierge team was attacked while trying to ask a trespasser to leave the development. We take this incident very seriously and believe it is very likely to re-occur unless measures such as gates are installed. As our development is positioned between two stations and has green spaces within it, it has become an attractive meeting point for anti-social elements.
3. **Speeding Vehicles on Heritage Lane:** Despite the presence of speed bumps, vehicles continue to travel at high speeds down Heritage Lane. This is particularly alarming as the lane is open to children's play areas, posing a direct threat to their safety.
4. **Safety Concerns for Women:** The length of the road leading to the development has become a source of anxiety for women walking home at night. Residents have reported being cat-called and harassed while walking home at night on this lane.
5. **Theft of Bicycles:** Our residents have faced multiple instances of bicycle theft, with locks being forcefully broken. This has not only led to financial losses but residents are now compelled to store their bicycles within their flats, an inconvenient solution that underscores the urgent need for enhanced security.
6. **Public Urination:** The vicinity of our development to the overground and underground stations has made our lane a hotspot for public urination during the summer months. This not only presents a public health concern but also affects the quality of life for our residents.

In light of these concerns, we feel the installation of gates would significantly enhance the safety of our residents. We kindly request your permission to go forward with this.

Yours sincerely,



Shezah Salam

Resident, 302 Milne Building

A2 Dominion Shared Ownership Tenant and member of WHSQ Residents Association