

Parnjit Singh

From: Chris and Judith Blencowe [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 February 2025 16:51
To: Planning
Subject: Attn Miriam Baptist: Re: Comments on 2024/5752/P have been received by the council.

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photo of no 20 Murray Mews referred to in our comments:

> On 28 Feb 2025, at 16:42, planning@camden.gov.uk wrote:

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> Having carefully studied the application drawings and description, we would like to submit the following comments and an objection. Some context: Murray Mews is unique both in scale and quality of the architecture. It contains a number of houses designed by celebrated architects at the outset of their careers - amongst which we must include nos 22 by Tom Kay and 20 by Richard Gibson. These two houses, completed in the early 1960s, form an elegantly proportioned ensemble. No 20 was built first by Gibson for his young family, Tom Kay admitting to us that he had been influenced by it in the design of his own house. Ironically, Tom Kay's house has been listed, while Richard Gibson's house - which many of us neighbours consider the better of the two - was not.

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> In the intervening years, three stories has become the 'norm' in the mews, though many regret the substantial

increase in built volume on the mostly very small sites.

> From this point of view we believe that the proposal for no 20 represents excessive development. This has led the applicants to propose a first floor extension to which we must object. In order to add approx 600mm to the depth of the existing Studio space to create a small single bedroom, they propose to demolish the existing solid brick first floor volume which is set back behind the line of adjacent no 18. Supported on a substantial 'Brutalist' fair-faced concrete cantilever, this will inevitably require prolonged highly intrusive and expensive demolition. The very small increase in floor area could surely be found internally - for example by decreasing the 'void'.

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> In support of our comments we also email separately a photo of nos 20 and 22 taken from a viewpoint close to our front door, and a link to a recent interview with Richard Gibson at age 89 in 'The Guardian'.

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> <https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/article/2024/aug/25/richard-gibson-architect-shetland-social-housing-modernism-camden>

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> Comments made by Chris and Judith Blencowe of 21 Murray Mews, London, NW1 9RH

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> Preferred Method of Contact is Email

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> Comment Type is Comment Made

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