

[REDACTED]

From: Monti [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 March 2025 09:23
To: John Nicholls
Subject: objection Menelik for consideration

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Dear Council team,

I own Flat A, 21 Somali Road NW2 3RN and wish to object to the proposed development at Menelik Road which is not in keeping with the tone or style of the rest of the neighbourhood. The Mara district is a quiet community area with abundant wildlife and a well integrated, active neighbourhood community led by a committee of dedicated locals known as the Mara Committee.

I have lived in Somali Road for nearly 25 years and know the area very well. Over the years, some of the houses have been converted to flats and many people (myself included) have developed and improved their properties, but the footprint of each house and garden has largely remained consistent through the Somali, Menelik and Asmara roads. I walk my dog along Menelik Road each day and enjoy the open space and light that results from the fact that home owners in Menelik have not overdeveloped their gardens and have maintained their low rise homes which have stayed in character with the rest of the neighbourhood.

Mara is also a neighbourhood where most people own their own properties or rent their properties on a long term basis, adding greatly to the cohesive community which has built up over the years. Any form of medium or large scale development for commercial gain would be inconsistent with the values of our community and risks undermining one of the main attractions of living in this kind and thoughtful neighbourhood where people look out for each other and help out where needed. This sense of community is rare in London and should be preserved where possible. I therefore urge you not to approve this proposed development.

I have no objection to the creation or updating of flats within the existing footprint and height of the current house if this is what the new owner wishes to do but I strongly object to any further properties being squeezed into the garden. It will create an unfortunate precedent for the neighbourhood from which there will be no return.

Steven monti

Sent from my iPhone