



Dear Mr Yeung

Planning Application 2015/7208/P: 24 Quadrant Grove London NW5

As a resident of Quadrant Grove for the last 12 years, I strongly object to the building of a basement at number 24 which is opposite my house.

Quadrant Grove is not just a street, it's a community. A narrow street of terraced houses where everyone lives on top of one another, but where everyone knows each other and everyone pulls together with a strong sense of belonging. It is not a typical London street. This can be witnessed by the many social events organised by its residents: a film club that meets in different houses for a drink beforehand, a pub quiz night, a book club, a christmas carol evening held by the streets longest serving resident at number

25. We have even had a street party. We take pride in our street and have won an award for best kept gardens from Camden Council.

Many of these residents work from home, either full time or part time. We are professional and enterprising people who have chosen this street as a quiet haven away from the hustle and bustle of London's busy streets. I am one such resident, and I can testify to the disruption that is caused by work of this type, having lived next to a basement dig before in another part of London. There is enough development in this street. In fact it is already at a level that is close to intolerable. The rubber stamping of basement development in this street will result in years of excessive noise and disruption, forcing residents to move out and the developers to move in. In my opinion this will be the beginning of the end of this community. I for one will consider it necessary to move away, taking my wife and two small children with me, all of whom have strong roots in the local area. It saddens me to know that such matters are rarely taken into consideration when these planning decisions are made; I can only deduce that it is the pressure from developers and the lure of making money that is driving this. I am sure that this will soon be exposed for what it is; I just hope it won't be too late for our street.

Building a basement is both by common sense and logic a complicated engineering project that adversely affects the houses on each side of the terrace and potentially those further along. It is a hugely disruptive process that has no place in a small narrow street of terraced houses. It will affect everyone in the street, not just those close by. The structural damage that can be caused to adjacent houses and those further down can appear much later on, causing distress and resentment to those concerned. Imagine the effect of not just one of these, but several, which the rubber stamping of this basement will precipitate. Yes, structural damage can be fixed eventually. But the damage to a community will be irreparable.

I urge you and the planning team to take the time necessary to exercise due diligence on this matter, and to understand the implications of the decision you are taking. It is incomprehensible that on the one hand Camden Council is promoting the importance of community with its reinvestment programmes such as the Gospel Oak regeneration, and on the other hand it would consider allowing a blatant misinterpretation of the planning regulations to enable its destruction elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Jon Thum, and on behalf of Sil, Zuri and Leon Thum.
21 Quadrant Grove