

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Consultees Addr:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2016/3799/P	Lis Fields & Mark Hutchinson	53 Dobson Close	30/07/2016 17:43:32	OBJ	<p>We are sorry to say that we believe the planned extension has a number of problems.</p> <p>Due to it's size and location we think that it would adversely affect the functioning and character of the block. It would be unneighbourly and potentially divisive in what is currently a friendly, supportive community.</p> <p>It would be sited over the manhole cover of a communal sewer/drain system which is shared by four residential blocks. This could impede timely and efficient access to this part of the sewer/drain system in the event of an emergency or for maintenance/replacement.</p> <p>It would reduce the open space and set an unwelcome precedent for further 'garden grabbing' extensions at the other properties. The gardens of Dobson Close are a precious open space, providing a respite from the urban environment, a place to relax, play and grow food, as well as providing cooling and preventing water run-off. They also provide a vital habitat for plants and wildlife. In the future such spaces will become increasingly important in helping to mitigate the predicted impacts of climate change such as the 'heat island effect'.</p> <p>All of the kitchens in the block are currently sited at the front of the building. In the event of a fire this siting enables excellent road access to firefighting vehicles as well as access to stand pipes for additional water.</p> <p>Relocating the kitchen to an extension which protrudes into the garden at the back of the building could cause an additional source of unwelcome smells to the neighbours, particularly those living on either side and above. Currently some residents have to close their windows at the front of the building in order to reduce the impact of their neighbour's unwelcome cooking smells. In fair weather some residents hold barbecues in their gardens, or in the wooded area at the back of the block. If the wind carries the barbecue smoke across the gardens and/or towards the back of the building, it drives some neighbours out of their gardens and/or to close their windows and patio doors to prevent it from invading their homes. During hot weather this is particularly unwelcome and unpleasant, even more so if the front windows are also already closed due to cooking smells also coming from kitchens at the front.</p>
