

*Embassy of the United States of America
GSO Housing – Room 1140
24 Grosvenor Square
London W1K 6AH*

November 17, 2016

Mr Raymond Yeung
Planning Officer
London Borough of Camden
Town Hall
Argyle Street
London WC1H 8ND

Dear Mr Yeung,

REF: 2016/5762/P 9 Middlefield, Camden, NW8 6ND – Proposed single storey front extension to the ground floor of dwelling house

I refer to the above referenced planning permission application, and write to advise you that the Embassy of the United States of America in London strongly objects to the proposal.

The embassy leases four townhouses within Middlefield and has made a significant investment in the houses to accommodate our American diplomatic families. One of the houses we lease is located adjacent to the application site at 9 Middlefield, which will be directly impacted by the extension since our house shares a wall with 9 Middlefield. The other houses we lease are also located within an extremely close proximity of house No. 9.

The proposal to extend the ground floor of 9 Middlefield outwards close to the street would be a dramatic and disruptive change for our diplomatic families, and the other residents on Middlefield. The construction would diminish the desirability of the houses and the value of the leases we hold, and we are deeply concerned about the possibility of having to relocate our families to alternative homes. During the past six months the owner of 9 Middlefield has filed a series of applications for proposed construction and the U.S. Embassy has until now declined to comment on any of those applications, which demonstrates how deeply concerned we are about the current proposal.

The plan to extend the front of 9 Middlefield would alter the open nature and facade of the Middlefield houses, both physically and visually, disconnecting green space that runs from one end of the street to the other, while resulting in inadequate landscaping. In the case of the property we occupy directly next door to 9 Middlefield, the project would permanently sever both the property's and occupants' outlook, sunlight, and view to the east from the ground floor, and would place its front door in an isolated, walled-off corner. This will certainly have a negative impact on the family residing there.

The construction itself would also be highly disruptive with noise and large machinery in place, and is a safety concern for our families and their visitors. It is likely that it would be necessary for temporary closure of the narrow street, which would cut off traffic-flow and parking.

Finally, we are concerned that multiple construction projects occurring simultaneously within the Middlefield neighbourhood will stress the neighbourhood's very limited capacity to manage construction-related traffic. Aside from the multiple renovation projects at No. 9 Middlefield, there are several other construction projects either ongoing or planned i.e. (i)two single-family houses are currently under construction on Middlefield, (ii)a long row of garages is due to be demolished from the alley behind the townhouses, and (iii)additional houses are under development to replace those garages. We urge the Council to carefully sequence these projects to maintain safe vehicular access for the Middlefield residents.

We greatly appreciate your consideration of our concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information. I can be contacted directly by email at HackettJJ@state.gov, or by telephone on 020 7894-0912.

Sincerely,



Jarrod Hackett
General Services Officer