

From Councillor Sian Berry, Highgate Ward

Support for Planning Applications: 2016/6369/P
Grove End House, 150 Highgate Road, London,
NW5 1PD



I am writing to support the proposals for the extension and improvement of this property in my ward.¹

I have studied the proposal document and viewed a presentation at a meeting of the Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Forum where I was able to ask questions. I believe the scheme will sensitively upgrade this existing building to very high sustainability standards while respecting its historic character and the existing streetscape and views.

The applicant is aiming to achieve an 80 percent reduction in carbon emissions from the home as well as rectifying some of the damage that was done to Grove End House during the twentieth century, restoring some of its original heritage features and removing external piping that is detrimental to the house's appearance.

Views of the front of the house from almost all vantage points will not be affected, with only a very subtle change to the roofline at long views. At the back and at the side (the side is the most visible aspect because of the location of trees) the appearance of the house will be much improved.

I believe the conservation principles in the Camden policies below are fully supported by the proposals and that, by cutting the carbon footprint of the building, the proposals support other Camden planning policies:

- **Preserving and restoring a heritage asset of the area:** DP 24 – securing high quality design, CS14 - promoting high quality places and conserving our heritage.
- **Sustainability:** CS13 - Tackling climate change through promoting higher environmental standards, DP22 - Promoting sustainable design and construction, CPG3 – sustainability.

I urge the Council to approve these plans. By allowing these residents to set an example of sensitive green retrofitting to this historic home, there could be a larger overall benefit to the borough by encouraging other homeowners to consider making similar energy-saving improvements.

Because of the very marginal impact on appearance, I also urge that, if planning officers are minded to reject the plans, it should be referred to the Member's Briefing Panel for review and then taken to committee for a final decision.

December 2016

¹ <http://planningrecords.camden.gov.uk/Northgate/PlanningExplorer17/PLComments.aspx?pk=446520>