

By Hand

Tessa Craig  
Planning Solutions Team  
Camden Council  
5 Pancras Square  
London N1C 4AG

74 Sumatra Road  
London  
NW6 1PR

20<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Dear Tessa Craig

Planning Application Number. 2017/2608/P

We write with reference to the above and confirm we wish to raise objections to the proposed plans.

We object to moving the railings forward to accommodate benches and play equipment right next to our house. The associated increase in noise audible inside our house will be intrusive, currently this is a quiet part of the space. The proposed gate will also increase noise levels as three existing gates of this type in the ball court already make a loud crash sound when closing and are not maintained despite requests to the parks department. We oppose the changes on grounds of loss of amenity and privacy, and increased risk of trespass as children enter front garden to retrieve table tennis balls, as can happen with footballs in the back garden.

We ask the council to consider putting new play equipment further away from residential premises. It may be more appropriate to site the play equipment at the rear of the park near the medical centre who may not be affected so greatly when the equipment is in use.

An additional gate introduces safety concerns for children using the park by allowing a second point of easy access to the street, making it more difficult for those supervising children, and is positioned on a bend in the road where sightlines are further obscured for drivers and pedestrians by a telephone utility box. The road is a cut through at certain times of the day and cars reach high speeds despite measures introduced to slow them. Placing play equipment near the road raises concerns that children will often have to run out on to the pavement and road to retrieve balls, as happens now with footballs. Have these risks been adequately assessed and considered?

Moving the railings forward to accommodate the new social and play area alters the appearance of the front of the site and changes the character of the road. The existing position respects the building line of the street. Moving it will also result in a loss of small but valuable green space that is enjoyed and open to all, young and old, and in practical terms limits its use. The West Hampstead Neighbourhood Plan calls for areas of green and open space to be protected.

Whilst we accept that we live next to an open space and with that we have to expect a level of inconvenience and even low level anti-social behaviour, historically our family has been affected by anti-social behaviour at various hours of the day, but particularly late at night which we have reported to the council and local councillors.

The proposed scheme to install a gate closer to our dwelling and to install play equipment adjacent to the house would in our opinion attract further anti-social behaviour to a level which would be unacceptable. It is our opinion that this would be causing a public/private nuisance.

We ask you to take into account the council's Corporate Plan and Policies, particularly in relation to residents' wellbeing, creating a neighbourhood that is balanced and takes into account the concerns of local residents. The proposed scheme would be detrimental to the local amenity and cause public and private nuisance. Reflecting this concern residents have signed a communal response, which has been submitted to your office, objecting to the application.

We welcome renovation of the space and play equipment but as the application stands we ask that it be rejected.

Yours faithfully



Jane Jackson



Riccardo Bindi