
From: vivien stern [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 July 2017 13:49
To: McClue, Jonathan; Planning
Subject: 2017/3838/P

Dear Mr. McClue

2017/4036/P -

100 Avenue Road, NW3 3HF - S. 96A Non-material amendment application

Please find below my objections to the proposed amendments to the existing planning permission:-

1) Fire safety and emergency access issues :-

a) London Fire Brigade has not been consulted over the proposed changes.

In the light of the Grenfell Tower catastrophe, it is now more important than ever that fire safety and access issues are properly addressed and catered for, and that means the LFB MUST be consulted on this and their recommendations and comments fully taken into account and acted upon.

Grenfell Tower is still fresh in everyone's minds, and the granting of Essential Living's application without having consulted LFB is negligence at its highest level.

This is a warning to Camden Council. Numerous warnings given by Grenfell Tower residents in the past over safety failures went unheeded, with catastrophic results. This is therefore the warning that Camden Council must now heed and adopt a responsible approach i.e. consultation with LFB.

b) Among the specifics of the proposed changes are:

i) Proposed planters, trees and granite slabs in the lane will create an obstacle for emergency vehicles in the event of a fire or some other catastrophe. In the light of Grenfell Tower, this proposal is both reckless and negligent.

ii) Although the tower will have only one stairwell, there is now a proposal to reduce the space in the hallway. In the event of people trying to get out in an emergency, this could result in a bottle-neck in the hallway, going up the staircase, and impede residents trying to get out of their flats and the building. Something so crucial cannot be regarded as "non-material". It is, in fact, "material".

iii) Changes to the method of opening windows and balconies are another safety issue on which LFB's views should be sought. In the event of fire, residents must be able to get out, and fire officers get in.

2) There was to have been a window-cleaning unit on the roof, but now this has been changed to remove it. It is hard to see how the windows are going to be kept clean without this unit. Windows need to be cleaned frequently. If the windows are not kept clean, they will look disgusting and the tower will be an eye-sore.

3) Wind.

The proposals for mitigating wind are not sufficient.

It is unacceptable that there could be winds that are so strong that they make it difficult for pedestrians to walk, let alone try to open umbrellas.

I can well remember the strong winds we had in the 1980's. There were clips shown on TV news of umbrellas being turned inside out by the wind, and pedestrians being literally blown over by the force of the wind, and falling flat on their faces on the pavement. People can suffer horrendous injuries from this kind of thing.

Thank you,

Yours sincerely,

Vivien Stern, 10 Goldhurst Terrace, London NW6 3HU.
Retired solicitor.