

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2018/4763/P	Bridget Clarke	29/10/2018 09:29:22	OBJEMPER	

I should like to oppose the granting of planning permission for a 6 storey block of flats on this site in St Johns Wood Park. Far from responding to its context as is claimed, the design shows no evidence of any interest in or knowledge of St John's Wood history and the fact that it was the first garden suburb (see Cottages and Villas by Mireille Galinou.) Middle Field and St Johns Wood Park may be in Camden now but they were part of the original Eyre estate and should be considered in the same light. All the homes have gardens, however small, whereas this proposed block seems to fill the whole site. Also the roof heights of the houses in Middle Field are all the same to give a unified picture; just recently Camden insisted the new house being built on Finchley Road within Middle Field should not be higher than the original roofline, so why should a breach of this be allowed for these flats?

Recently a plan for 3 new houses in William Court in Hall Road, St Johns Wood were deemed excessive and unneighbourly and permission was refused by Westminster Council despite having been granted by their Planning Department. One resident said "It is St Johns Wood not St Johns Concrete Jungle for a reason". Large blocks like these bring a sense of enclosure and loss of light and are an overdevelopment of the site. The site should be used for 1 or 2 family houses for people who want to live permanently in the area and who will support schools and shops, not flats which will probably only be used for a part of the year.

The proposals say that a historic pedestrian right of way will be restored so that residents can access St John's Wood Park. I have lived here since 1958 and the original right of way was for a vehicle exit as well as a pedestrian one and even after a gate was put across it was possible to open it for vehicles and particularly for ambulances or fire engines. It was only blocked off a year or two ago when planning permission was granted for the house to be built.

I do not understand why the illustrations are allowed to show two enormous trees outside the flats – at the moment there is not so much as a blade of grass, so where will they come from?

I believe two years ago the Twentieth Century Society wrote to Camden asking them to put Middle Field on the Local List of areas where special consideration should be given before developers are allowed to alter the appearance and amenities. Despite sending various emails to the Planning Dept, no one has had the courtesy to tell me whether it has been added to the list and if not, why not.

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