



Dear Ms Meynell

I've been asked by my friends Debra Tammer and Gidon Katz to write in support of their basement planning application. We are also neighbours of theirs and have lived across Adelaide Road, on Eton Avenue, for over 15 years.

Having carried out a basement installation on my home [REDACTED] in 2008, I can only say that there have been no adverse effects on any of our neighbours properties and, in fact, the thorough underpinning necessary for modern basement construction will secure our party wall and outer walls against subsidence or heave for the foreseeable future.

Although there is short term disturbance to neighbours as clay is taken away, this is not noisy and is over in a month or two. All noise from a rebuild is from tile cutting and the like, which would happen even if there was a simple redecoration. In fact, compared to our dig, this one would be much simpler. They can put a skip on their drive and conveyor belt the earth straight out, with direct access to lorries from the road; whereas we had to hand fill a skip, as we could not get a conveyor belt in the narrow drive.

Regardless of the short-term, what must be taken into account is the immeasurable benefits a basement gives to the occupants as well as the community.

Apart from keeping a family in the area - which is crucial to the character and economic well-being of Primrose Hill - it is also important to keep long-term residents in the area. The chop and change of renters is often more of a nuisance to neighbours than building noise, and damages the sense of community that families like this one contribute to.

Also, there is the fantastic side-benefit that basements are both very energy efficient (no loss of heat in the winter, and cool in the summer) as well as noise efficient; they are basically a sound-proofed concrete box. This is a benefit both to the occupants as well as to sensitive neighbours, who might not want to hear children or music playing.

If I can offer any further help, please contact me.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Colman

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