



Dear Samir Benbarek

I am a long term resident at [redacted] from the proposed basement development at no 1 St Mark's Crescent.

I have objections to this development.

There is inadequate width in this street for access for large lorries. Even if the developers were to use the canal to remove excavated soil via the canal (as is being done currently by others) there would still be a need for large lorries for deliveries and joists and more, and if the development is extensive this will go on for some time. Ideally each time the road should be closed because otherwise the road is too narrow and people park on the pavements. Parking on the pavements is i believe illegal but Camden seems to be ignoring this and it has become the norm.

We have rooms and vaults under the pavement and there is already damage to the paved footpath caused by lorries on the area between no 1 and 2 caused by such work. Each time I see cars, and also lorries at times parked UP on the pavement outside my house I worry for the integrity of my laundry room which is located below the parked vehicles.

i am concerned about the ground water levels generally, and anything which might interfere with the free running of water, the pooling of water, and might cause damp in the houses. Of course the neighbours immediately adjacent would be more effected than me, but I know that I have had the whole of my basement damp proofed to a high level because otherwise there is rising damp. As it is - on average once a year I have some temporary flooding, rising up through the floor in my conservatory, after a particular heavy and prolonged rain storm - I mention this because although it is my problem and likely caused by something not quite right in my foundations, it underlines the fact that the water ground level is not far away and this is therefore relevant. The current situation has been as it is since the houses were first built in 1847 and we've all come to accommodate and deal with what needs to be done. To institute anything which might radically interfere with the status quo locally is of great concern.

Generally I believe these double basements should be discouraged (as should paved over gardens if one could) to allow rain water to run freely into the ground, to be taken up by planting and vegetation and trees, to promote a more balanced and natural ecosystem and lessen the risk of damp basements and flooding in the streets when the drains are not able to cope.



