

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 March 2019 12:46
To: Planning [REDACTED]
Subject: Planning Response - 2018/5419/P - O/S 75 Gordon Mansions, Torrington Place, WC1

FAO Matthew Dempsey

Thank you for allowing me to comment on planning application 2018/5419/P which relates to the relocation of pedestrian gates to the lower steps outside 75 Gordon Mansions, Torrington Place, WC1.

I have no objections to this proposal but have the following comments and recommendations to make in relation to it.

Comments and Recommendations

- I would suspect that the reasons for this proposal is as a result of the area suffering from crime and anti-social behaviour in the form of persons congregating on the exposed steps and using them as a seating area. I can well imagine this causes a lot of issues for local residents wishing to leave the location and also for passing pedestrians who will feel a fear of crime as they pass a group of people just sat there.
- Bringing the gate forward will create a clear demarcation between what is public and private space and reduce the risk of the area being used for ASB. Even if people still continue to use the area residents will feel more empowered to challenge unacceptable behaviour as it will be quite clear that an unknown person being there should not be.
- I would also suspect that the original gate will be reused in the repositioning due to it being aesthetically pleasing and in keeping with the local building design. Though not ideal as a means to preventing full access due to the design and the number of foot/hand holds for climbing available it will be satisfactory as a boundary.
- I would recommend that any locks used meet a British Standard or if a Euro Cylinder lock considered it has a 'Three Star rating or higher.
- If the gate is going to be locked both ways then consideration needs to be made to reduce the risk of a person reaching through the gaps to activate the locking mechanism... for example if a 'thumb turn' lock is placed on the interior face.

I will be more than happy for the applicant to contact me if they have any questions regarding my comments as they are based on the basic description on the application and could change if I have misunderstood how the gate is going to be eventually used.

Kind regards

Jim



Jim Cope
Police Constable – Design Out Crime Officer
Metropolitan Police Service
Continuous Policing Improvement Command (CPIC)



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