

Dear Mr Benmbarak,

I live in and am very worried about the planning application (2019/1070/P) to turn the office in our court yard into a clinic. If the office was converted into a clinic I would feel very unsafe in my home. Unfortunately I suffer from PTSD after having been attacked on a road by three men with a large knife who threatened to kill me if I didn't hand over my phone and my wallet. For me, my home feels like a safe haven and if the office was changed from an office into a clinic, hundreds of people would enter our private courtyard on a weekly basis and would be able to look inside my house and hang around right outside my front door.

Whenever I come home, I feel so protected, once I enter our courtyard because I know that I am in a safe space where I can calmly retrieve my front door keys in order to enter my house. This would be taken away from me as our courtyard would basically become an extension of the public walkways. Our houses were designed with large windows looking into the courtyard and this design would have never been applied if the facade was looking straight on the road, which would then be basically the case as the visitors wouldn't care if they left the courtyard door open or closed.

I am also worried for my little friends who live in the adjacent houses. Some of them are very young and enjoy playing in the courtyard which they would then not be allowed to do as "strangers" would then be hanging around our courtyard. I believe strongly that patients with mental health problems should receive the best possible treatments but even if only one of these patients had a condition that would lead him/her to harm one of the children, it would be heartbreaking and would have been avoidable by not placing a clinic in the midst of a family residence. Children today have to deal with so many pressures, why take away the refuge where they can play freely?

Additionally, there are two schools right next door and our road is very busy all day long already. Sometimes one can't even walk on the pavement because there are so many parents and children congregating outside. I can't see how this little road can handle hundreds more people wandering up and down.

I believe strongly that 39 College Crescent is not a suitable location to open a clinic for psychiatric illnesses and would be very happy to show you in person at our home how this change in planning would infringe our privacy and safety.

