

24 Chalcot Crescent
London
NW1 8YD

8th May 2019

To whom it may concern,

Reasons for Requesting Permission for the Installation of Discrete External Video Surveillance

It is with considerable regret that we are making this application. However, during the 10 years we have lived at this address, we have seen steadily increasing levels of crime on our street both in terms of frequency and severity, and several times affecting our own property.

It seems that our road provides a good environment for thieves because at night it is quite dark and quiet - the chances of being disturbed in the act of theft are low. Furthermore, there are 5 ways to exit Chalcot Crescent - either directly on to Regents Park Road (with the park opposite), via Rothwell Street, via Sharpleshall Street, via Berkley Road, or onto Chalcot Square. Hence escape routes are plentiful and the latter option is only available on foot or bike. The curve in the road enables look-outs to keep an eye out while their accomplices commit the crime - we have seen this in action at night after being awoken by the sound of a break-in.

Car crime in the street is a regular occurrence. We have personally been affected several times and many of our neighbours have been affected too. We have reported these incidents to the police and they have come to take prints, but they have told us that they cannot catch the thieves without evidence (for which CCTV would be useful).

There have also been house burglaries on the road, and in 2012 an attempt was made to break into our home causing £1,800 of damage. This was reported to the police, but again they were unable to pursue the criminals for lack of evidence.

A few years ago, in broad daylight, our next door neighbour was robbed in front of our house, knocked to the floor and very badly hurt. Again, there

was no CCTV footage that would have helped the police investigation and prevention of further crimes.

Furthermore, within a short distance from our road there have been other major crimes, including stabbings in the park and thefts at knifepoint, including a brutal attack on a lady near Meadowbank in August 2018. More recently, at a house neighbouring St John's Wood, a mother and her children were held at knifepoint by burglars who had gained entry by pretending to be delivery drivers.

As a result, we have become increasingly concerned about safety, not least for our seven year old son and we feel that a discrete video surveillance would deter further crimes and will make our neighbourhood safer.

We are proposing an installation of three small cameras in discrete locations. The proposed cameras do not require light to operate as they are infra-red.

The key focus of the proposed video surveillance would be the blind spot in front of our house which we cannot see from the floors above at night and which we believe is why the car right in front of our house is often the one targeted.

In summary, we no longer feel safe.

With this proposal we want to protect ourselves, our property and our neighbours. We have discussed our proposal with some of our neighbours and they were supportive so we are asking the Council to please support our application, or provide us with an alternative solution that can adequately address our safety concerns.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Simon Dean'.

Simon Dean / Dr Afza Zaki