
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 October 2019 08:24
To: Planning
Subject: FW: Planning Application Number: 2019/2375/P / The development of Hampstead Police Station by Abacus Belsize Primary Free School

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Please upload objection.

Thanks,

David

David Fowler
Principal Planner

Telephone: 0207 974 2123



Sent: 14 October 2019 17:27
To: Fowler, David <David.Fowler@camden.gov.uk>
Subject: Planning Application Number: 2019/2375/P / The development of Hampstead Police Station by Abacus Belsize Primary Free School

Dear David,

Planning Application Number: 2019/2375/P
The development of Hampstead Police Station by Abacus Belsize Primary Free School

From time to time, in public meetings and in Abacus' planning application they, or their representatives, will describe the police station as if it was previously a busy inner-city hub with many cars coming and going, sirens blaring at all hours. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Since 1987, I have lived in [REDACTED] Downshire Hill; my home overlooks the police station car park. Further, I've known most of the residents at 52 Downshire Hill going back to its conversion into flats in 1957. I am writing to you now to correct the portrait painted in the planning application. It would be fair to say that I—and the previous residents—have found the police station a quiet neighbour: more bucolic than urban.

Until the 1980s horses were regularly stabled at the police station, so the main sound from the 'car park' was the clip-clop of the horse's hooves, their snorting and neighing. As you probably know, even after horses were moved away, they continued to be routinely brought to the yard for water. In the past, when the building was in full use as a police station, there was the bark of dogs picked-up on the Heath and kept in the station until the Battersea Dogs Home would come to collect them. Indeed, during the many years the police station was in use, to the best of my knowledge, the neighbours never

complained about cars, traffic, or noise. To the best of my knowledge, the only objection the neighbours ever made concerning noise was to object to dogs being kept over Saturday and Sunday nights in the cells—their howling was heartbreaking, but this was resolved. There was an article in the Ham and High or Camden New Journal to this effect and I am trying to find it for you. While there are labelled car spaces—Chief Detective, Detective and so forth marked out in the car park—I watched these lines being painted in, I believe, 1994, but these spaces were to the best of my knowledge never used as labelled. For the most part, they have sat empty.

Cars—police cars and the private cars of officers—were rarely parked in the back. The station generated little car traffic. On occasion, police cars were checked over before going out. From time to time, early in the morning, a group of detectives would gather there before going out on a raid. Once or twice a year, there were police exams. I have seen officers being quietly examined on how to approach a car with suspects in it.

In short, contrary to the picture painted in the planning application and at public meetings—the police were quiet neighbours, there was little or no car traffic to and from the car park.

All best,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]