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I have every sympathy with Lord Peter Eden's predicament and the perfectly valid reasons for this application. If the only consideration was to improve his quality of life, I would have no objection to the plans. But I am also concerned about any visual changes that may adversely affect the existing streetscape and character of Fairfax Place.

This mews is an unusually well-preserved piece of mid-century planning, with harmony, symmetry and consistency in the original design and, remarkably, still so today. The added tower or block housing the proposed lift-shaft, even though slightly set back, would project beyond the frame of the house and roof as an anomaly, both at the front and from the entrance from Fairfax Road. It would also unbalance the existing symmetry of that part of the street, where the buildings flanking the one-storey block of garages between them have an identical profile.

It seems to me that the pleasing appearance of the mews and its architectural heritage are well worth protecting. I hope the planning department will take these considerations into account when making its decision.



