Dear Kristina Smith

**Conservatory/Orangery, 42 Aberdare Gardens**

I am writing because I live at number 40 Aberdare Gardens, and I am no. 40’s next door neighbour, in the other half of the building. My house, like all the others in the road, was built with a small extension towards the outer side housing the kitchen and a bathroom, and this shelters the back of the house from being overlooked from the next building. Extensions built later are mainly built on this blind side of the house and so there is no real problem. The extension/conservatory at no. 42 is built right up to my property boundary, so that the area outside my French window is enclosed on both sides.

Looking from my French window at the moment I have sight of my extension and the current conservatory at no. 42. If permission is given to extend by neighbours’ property any further out into their garden it will leave me with an even more tunnel-like effect from my windows, obscuring the left hand side of the garden beyond, and a lot of the sky. It will make the area at the back of the house hotter in the summer (a sun trap) and darker in the autumn/winter as the sun will not be able to climb above the roof of the lengthened extension at that time of year, leaving that part of my garden and the back of the house without sunlight for longer.

I take pride in my garden, which I have built up over many years, for my enjoyment and for that of the two flats upstairs. I am sure that, just as when the Suhonens replaced the fencing between the gardens, I shall lose some of my plants when the existing conservatory is demolished and the new one constructed.

I am also worried about the effects on my health of all this, as I am not the strongest of people. I am 79 years old and disabled; my disability is getting worse as I get older. Looking out through my French window and seeing the seasons come and go gives me great pleasure. Having my view obscured does not seem fair, as I’ve worked so hard and been so protective of my property.

I am worried that the demolition/construction work will affect the party wall between the properties. If my sitting room’s ceiling or walls are damaged they will be difficult and expensive to mend or replace. Being faced with all this fills me with dread, and I don’t know if I will be able to cope.

As I have explained, the existing extension/conservatory at no. 42 is not ideal for me, but I live with it. However, if the new conservatory is any higher or extends any further into the garden, this will have an adverse effect on my garden and on the enjoyment I am able to take in it.

Yours sincerely

Rosalind Powell