Objection to Planning Application 2020/1732/P: Installation of telecommunications equipment at roof top level to include 12 antennae, dish antenna, cabinets etc. at Highstone Mansions, 84 Camden Road, NW1 9DY

To: Mr Joshua Ogunleye, Camden Planning Services Dept

Dear Mr Ogunleye,

I wish to object to this Planning Application request.

Beyond the health and environmental detrimental impacts of this project which have been carefully documented in many other objections already sent to you, I would like to raise further objections.

First of all I would like to complain about the process which lacks transparency. As residents, we have voiced objections directly with the provider as soon as we were approached, it therefore strikes me that we have to spend time voicing objections again, as if the default option was for the project to go ahead, where it should be for them to seek approval. Besides, as a home owner and shareholder in the freehold of the block, I do not accept that any third party has any right to decide whether they can even put ahead a planning project where it depends on a private property they do not have control of. I consider that the whole process is violating residents and home owners’ rights whose opinion has been by-passed.

As a home owner in the block I am also concerned about the impact on the value of my property. Like myself a lot of the owners are living in the block, either repaying a mortgage or have invested a significant chunk of their assets to acquire a flat. The installation of the antennas will undoubtedly reduce the value of our properties and I request hereby that Camden council put forward minimum financial conditions to the provider should their project go ahead:

* The provider should pay upfront compensation to all home owners for the estimated loss of market value of the properties at Highstone mansion, 84 Camden road as a result of the antennas installation (based on the immediate loss of value as of the date of installation of the antennas, should the plan go ahead).
* The provider should be required to compensate any home owner who still has to sell below market price in the future and cover the gap to market value, with no expiry and affecting all future sales of flats in the block, until the antennas would be removed.

Additionally, as a shareholder of the freehold, I consider that I have right of use of the roof alongside the other shareholders, any third party wishing to install anything on the roof for exploitation purposes should therefore compensate the freeholders in the form of a rent. I request that Camden council put forward that a rent should be payable to the freeholders and that it should be entirely fixed by the freeholders.

Highstone mansion’s freeholders only should be entitled to define the level of compensation, should the provider refuse them, then there should not be any antennas planted on our roof.

Best regards

Sylvain Bertrand

26/12/2020