

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2021/1081/P	Keith and Kathleen Northrop	14/05/2021 16:40:02	OBJNOT	<p>While we do not object to the proposed play-area in principle, it not being our intention to deprive the children of all the fun such a playground offers, we do object to the overall height of the structure. This is for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. As is apparent from the location plan, it is a bizarre idiosyncrasy of our gardens that they not only taper but also skew to the right, this means that the tower element of the structure as currently proposed, (just shy of four meters in height), will be in our our direct line of sight (most of the trees being deciduous) from the back of our house. At the same time, it will not be so visible from number 11 itself due to the angle of the gardens. This also means that the children on a raised platform could be looking directly into our dining area rather than number 11's.</li> <li>2. Both neighbouring houses on either side of ours have large raised patios with doors that open completely, across a six meter run, providing an indoor-outdoor experience. This has become an increasing problem whenever the weather is nice, due to the incessant noise, including music, entertaining (both neighbouring houses locating their respective dining table abutting our boundary with one being less than 2 meters from our French windows). There is also the broadcasting of communications between inside and out as well as all the sounds that go with a kitchen. This situation means that we feel we need to keep our French windows closed at these times. We have come to consider that the only space we have available to us and where we can have some relative peace is the bottom part of our garden, which is where, in the summer months, we currently put our table. During Covid this space has also been used as a place to work and the structure, particularly the raised house, climbing wall and monkey bars, will limit the potential use of this area.</li> <li>3. We're also concerned that such a high and dominant structure will severely infringe not only our privacy but also cast shadows over what is currently a sunny area. We consider the loss of light a real worry.</li> <li>4. The increased noise levels due to the playground being a place where the stated intention is to invite the neighbouring children round, is going to increase those already existing and while we do like to hear children playing, given the above we are nevertheless concerned about the cumulative effect. As we say, we already feel that at these times we are often confined inside or have to leave.</li> </ol> <p>We would therefore like there to be some limitation of the height in particular. This should not reduce the overall experience but we do believe that the current height limit for garden structures and buildings of 2.5m is there for good reason and should therefore be applied as a reasonable bar.</p> <p>Two further points:</p> <p>We find it is noteworthy that the scale of the sight plan (1:500) is representative of the plan of the garden but not of the structure itself, suggesting that the structure is smaller than it actually is: The overall structure is 4400mm wide and not the 3800mm the site plan suggests. The area between it and our boundary shows on the drawing as a 750mm gap whereas in fact, according to the details, it is actually only 20mm. In reality such a measurement would be barely discernible at such a scale.</p> <p>Secondly, we have been advised that overbearing developments such as that proposed may have a negative effect on the value of our house and if this is the case we would consider it wholly unreasonable and we would reserve our ability to seek compensation.</p>

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Finally, we should add that we have sought to avoid the necessity for submitting this objection. We have corresponded with the applicant, made our concerns and the reasons for them clear and have offered to discuss the proposals both with them and with the designer. However they have not made themselves available up to this point and so we have been left with no alternative, given that today is the last working day before the submission deadline.

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