



Subject: Proposed Howitt Close Extension



Dear Kate Henry,

I write again in connection with the proposed extension of Howitt Close by building another floor on top of the existing building. I note that in the council's own Belsize Conservation Area statement in the section Sub Area four, the Glenloch area it says

"There is a clear change in character on entering this area from both Belsize Avenue and Belsize Park Gardens from the larger, grander, villa development to more modest family housing of a much smaller scale and tighter grain. These streets fall at a constant gradient to Glenilla Road which is flat. The houses along Glenloch, Glenmore and Howitt Roads are two storey red brick terraces with a basement."

It would therefore be logical that an extension of Howitt Close block of flats would look out of proportion, oversized and ugly in this area, sounded as it is by two storey houses more tightly packed in a narrower street than most of the others in the area.

Additionally as a resident of Howitt Close I'd like to point out that the residents here have received no letter from the council or the Freeholders at any point informing us of these plans. I've frequently received letters in the past informing of proposed plans for building extension works of other properties in the area or surrounding roads with information on how to raise any possible objections and a date by which to do so, but it seems that when the plans are for the very building in which one lives, is a leaseholder and would be expected to have the greatest interest no such notification is provided. This seems at best remiss, at worst negligent, irresponsible, underhand and discourteous. For the only official notification to be a sign placed unobtrusively on a lamppost in the road near the property shows a lamentable lack of respect for residents here and is surely unacceptable, I don't imagine you or anyone else would appreciate it. I hope the council will look at its own Belsize Conservation Area statement before granting permission for these works which will negatively affect the character and beauty of this area,

Regards,
Craig Ewens