

From: Willemien HINES <wcmhines@me.com>
Sent: 07 January 2022 13:35
To: Planning Planning
Subject: Planning Application 2021/4953/P

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Beware – This email originated outside Camden Council and may be malicious Please take extra care with any links, attachments, requests to take action or for you to verify your password etc. Please note there have been reports of emails purporting to be about Covid 19 being used as cover for scams so extra vigilance is required.

Dear Sir/Madame,

I am writing to give my views on the above Planning Application.
I am well acquainted with the house, garden and green in front of 5 The Grove, as my husband and I owned the house and lived there for 21 years until December 2003, when we sold to George Michael .
I have visited the house when George was in residence.

The terrace 1-6 The Grove was built in 1685 .
No 5 was rebuilt in 1930 using much of the old material.
We bought the house in 1980 and my husband and I restored the interior to the original style , purchased period fire places to replace modern ones and replaced all features of the 1930 style with period features in line with the other 5 houses in the terrace.

No 5 is, I believe, the largest house in The Grove, the lower ground floor is extensive.
I would not allow digging underneath the front garden, as, despite what the experts say, it will affect the neighbouring houses.
This was the case with the alteration at Witanhurst, which was said not to affect the neighbouring homes.
However, I understand that groundwater entered their basements for the first time in the 60 years they had lived in The Grove.
The lower ground floor of 5 The Grove is extensive.
I cannot see a material need or reason, other than greed, for an extension under the front garden, which might endanger the neighbouring properties.

In 1989 Sting and Trudy lived at No 2 The Grove. They intended to replace the railings in front of the house with solid gates.
The neighbours objected, as this would ruin the integrity of the terrace 1-6 The Grove.
Following an exchange of letters between the neighbours, Sting decided not to go ahead with the planned gates.
If needed, I can supply copies of the fairly entertaining exchange of correspondence.
All six houses have the same wooden railings in front of their house and this should be maintained.

As for the two plots of green land in front of The Grove.

Yes, I agree that the railings surrounding the greens are very worn and need to be replaced.

I urge the Council to only allow an exact replica of the existing railings , anything else in height or density will completely spoil the open feel of that area.

When we lived there, on sunny days, clients of The Flask would sometimes picnic on the larger green.

Although privately owned it also has the feel of a communal space.

The Harrington Garden Scheme used to look after the green for us and I believe also for George Michael.

We planted a few trees, but wished to keep the simple open space, with views to The Flask, St. Michael's Church, The Old Hall and Voel House, all important historic buildings in that area, which are linked by the greens.

I implore the Council not to allow new owners to destroy what so many previous owners (amongst whom Sir Patrick Sergeant, Yehudi Menuhin, Sting, Anny Lennox, John Hines, Sir Mark and Lady Turner (and many, many more distinguished residents) have preserved, restored, treasured and guarded for future generations.

I was shocked to see that the owners of No 6 replaced the slate roof (which Annie Lennox had just renewed prior to selling the house) with totally out of place red Dutch pantiles .

If they did this without permission, I urge the Council to still enforce the rules and make the owners replace that roof with the original slate roof in keeping with the integrity of the terrace 1-6 The Grove.

Yours sincerely,

Willemien Hines