

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2021/5512/P	Susanne Griffin	08/01/2022 15:49:59	OBJ	<p>I am objecting to the plans to further extend Flat A at 95 York Way, in part because it has already been extended from the original footprint of the house. Planning rules always used to specify how much an existing property could extend from its original size. The proposed 'extension' stretches almost right to the wall of the next property's boundary wall.</p> <p>Secondly, from an environmental perspective, the proposed buildings would extend into what is currently 'open space' and forever prevent this open space from easily being converted back into a viable and pleasant 'garden', which could both encourage wildlife and assist natural drainage.</p> <p>Thirdly, given this is a designated 'conservation area' and Camden has declared a climate and ecological emergency situation, such a proposal to build over the minimal 'garden' that remains should not be granted, unless there is a surveying (maybe through use of a volunteer programme to help reduce costs) of the Borough's remaining spaces between buildings. Spaces should be carefully evaluated regarding their current status regarding drainage and ecology, with Tree Protection Orders put on existing trees that have value for wildlife, and consideration made of how such areas could actually be enhanced and improved.</p> <p>As a resident who is deeply concerned about the future for the next generations of humans who will be living in Camden, long after my own death, I would very much like to offer my support to the Council for changes in planning and development rules and guidelines, that would help encourage residents to contribute to re-establishing more nature hubs and wildlife corridors.</p> <p>If for example, a survey is done for this plot and the surrounding area, sadly inspectors will find that much land with potential to help save our wildlife has already been built on by developers eager to add value to their investments and rental incomes. There are already lots of ground floor extensions and roof terraces extending out on both 1st and second floor levels, with noisy outdoor parties disturbing people's sleep and nocturnal ambient, decorative and 'security' lighting adding to carbon use through electricity and contributing to night-time light pollution, which as well as unsettling human residents, also further adversely affects wildlife. The developer at no. 95 seems to suggest that building over a previously concreted over back yard is somehow good, because the area doesn't have grass or trees on currently. Why not take the approach of trying to reduce his/her/their own carbon footprint, and instead of building, to start to recreate 'green space', perhaps by planting a small hedgerow and building a small wildlife pond? Since there is now plenty of research evidence to show just how important 'green space' is for human physical and mental health, this could be very beneficial for the resident's own physical and mental health.</p> <p>The Council might also be minded to consider very carefully any significant potential problems with any further increase in the density of overlong rear extensions in York Way at this point, before further irretrievable damage occurs.</p> <p>As a resident of Marquis Road since 2005, I deliberately chose not to extend my property, even though to do so would have provided some additional much needed space whilst my children were growing up. This was specifically because of my concerns about the environment. Please will the Council now step in to look again at the overall picture here, and try to help conserve the narrow stretch of gardens and shrubs and trees that still do remain between some of the houses on York Way and Marquis Road? In the last three years I have personally been heartened by the return of sparrows to my garden after an absence of 15 years, and I have been trying to encourage frogs by building a small wildlife pond, but have as yet only seen one or two frogs around.</p> <p>Instead of giving consent to further destruction of what remains, how about now deciding to preserve these spaces for people on both roads? I am well aware from people's comments, that those in the overlooking flats do very much enjoy looking out at these small remaining oases of green, watching the flowers grow and the leaves change their colours, noticing the fluttering of bird-life, and even the occasional early evening bats that still sometimes forage in the small remaining gaps, where there are still some large trees between the two</p>