

Barnett, Jessica: PC-Plan

From: Rezia Senn
Sent: 27 March 2014 02:01
To: Planning Policy
Subject: Control of Basement Developments

Dear Sir, dear Madam

We strongly support the Councils proposals for a change in policies towards more restrictive regulations regarding basement excavations. Anything restricting is welcome, the more restrictions the better.

We live opposite a building site where our neighbours in Launceston Place have been digging down one or two floors for about 2 years already. It is extremely annoying. There seems no end in sight. Heavy lorries arrive and leave daily, bringing congestion to the street, as well as dirt and noise, the works themselves are at times extremely noisy, and we have had more or less permanent parking suspensions opposite during the building period. I expect the project to go on probably another year....I am dreading it. It is extremely disruptive.

I have full understanding for the usual renovation works, most of us do some work from time to time, in order to keep our houses in shape, but such huge basement excavations and alterations should simply not be allowed, they cause far too much disruption for far too long. It seems nobody has ever considered the duration of such basement projects, and the impact on the neighbours. There has been so much criticism in the newspapers of basement permissions, but it seems that in Kensington such permissions are still cheerfully given, there seems to be a new monster project in South End in the pipeline.

I anyway can't believe that we ourselves did not get permission for the tiniest conservatory some years ago, while other people are allowed to pull out everything from the pretty Georgian houses in Launceston Place, so that just the exterior shell is left - that is about what is left of No 21, seen from the side of the Victoria Road gardens. One more case which makes us believe that clearly not everyone gets treated the same way. We strongly suspect there is a bit of extra money involved and one needs to know the right key people in this borough. I wish you all a basement development next door for a couple of years.

kind regards
Rezia Senn