

RE: 10 MILLINGTON ROAD DEVELOPMENT

We welcome the opportunity to provide input into the Committee's consideration of this long-running case. We hope that it will now be possible to reach a resolution of how the Council intends to move forward with the clear legal advice it has received, not least in the light of the precedent to be established here within a conservation area.

Our concerns regarding the development at 10 Millington Road relate to its scale, both in length and height, and its close proximity to our kitchen and dining rooms, which together have caused serious harm to the light and amenity of these rooms. We intend to bring to the meeting a few photographs which will give some idea of the situation (although since the boundary is so close to our property it is not possible to convey this fully). In particular:

1. From the dining room, our already limited view of the sky has been constrained even further. This is because the rebuilding of the garage into a utility room has raised the height of the wall (which forms the boundary) to 2.8 metres from our side. This is only 2 metres from our windows. This is exacerbated by the erection of a new section of brick wall behind the utility room to a total height of just under 4 metres. Light from the sky is blocked into an already dark room.
2. In the kitchen, our windows look out onto a large new brick wall less than 4 metres away. This wall has been topped by a closely-boarded wooden structure supported by heavy steel uprights giving a **total of 3.7 metres in height**. The overall construction is almost as high as our first floor windows and extends right down the side of our house. The inescapable effect is to make us feel hemmed in and confined, in rooms where, as a family, we spend a lot of time.
3. We note that the boundary wall on the other side of number 10 is within the planning guidelines and is about 2 metres in height.
4. Finally, a slanting "roof" of wooden battens has been put up between a new (higher) boundary fence and the brick wall, creating a wooden barrier to our light of up to 3 metres right in front of the window. This is an unsightly structure which appears to serve little purpose (other than to attempt to change the status of the wall to that of a building and thus permit a greater height).

We have genuinely tried to be neighbourly regarding the development. Indeed, we supported the planning application which was subsequently withdrawn, subject to clarification of measurements. We are open to working towards a compromise so long as our serious concerns are addressed.

We suggest the following might work as a reasonable compromise way forward since it would retain for our neighbours the key benefits of their development (the main brick wall) whilst making a real difference to the problems we now experience:

- Permanent removal of the new section of brickwork behind the utility room
- Permanent removal of the barred wooden structure above the brick wall
- Permanent removal of the steel uprights and coping in which they are embedded
- Permanent lowering of the slanting wooden roof.