
Sent: 02 September 2013 21:58
To: Planning Policy
Subject: Response Form Policy CL7

I am responding to Policy CL7 below as I cannot respond on the Microsoft Word Document as my old computer will not allow it. I hope none the less that my response will be acceptable.

To:
The Executive Director of Planning and Borough Development
f.a.o The Policy Team
The Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea
The Town Hall Hornton St
London W8 7NX

Partial Review of the Core Strategy for the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea with a focus on North Kensington Development Plan Document Policies.

Name: Mrs Victoria Jacobsen

Company/Organisation: The Christ Church Residents Association
Representing the residents of Christchurch St, Caversham Street, Christchurch Terrace, North Tite Street and other neighbouring areas.

State planning policy or paragraph: Policy CL7 in its entirety.

Do you consider the planning policy to be sound? YES

During my six years as Chairman and previously Secretary of the Christ Church Residents Association most of my time was spent addressing the serious concerns of our members on adverse effects of basement developments. I have been in the forefront of the discussions as a member of the Kings Road Association of Chelsea Residents attending the public meetings, which were full to bursting with unhappy residents across the Borough. The response to such meetings by the Council has certainly been to "Positively Prepare" a policy document. The Council has also sought the view of neighbouring boroughs faced with such problems and how they were dealing with them. This has taken a great deal of time and effort and is certainly "justified" as anyone who attended the public meetings and seen and heard the stream of complaints would testify. The Council have also tried to explain the reasons why some of the desired strategies would not be suitable even though they were much desired by residents.

Regarding the policy document being "Effective" . Yes I think it can under present planning resources and would be a good bar to set for other London boroughs to follow.

"Consistant with National Policy" It is, though sadly I don't agree with current National Policy which seems to favour any building development without taking into consideration the sensitivity of densely populated urban areas. Indeed many of the objectors would like to ban basements altogether, or limiting the number of basement developments allowed in one street at any one time to give some peace to the people trying to live reasonably quietly in their own homes. After two meetings with our hard working local MP Greg Hands and other Government ministers it was made clear that legislation would not change as our problem was not on any party manifesto and that Councils already had the necessary powers to restrict developments they were not using. I have to say I did not find this to be true and this is why this planning policy has come about has it not?

Do you consider the Planning Policy Document to be legally compliant YES

I am not a lawyer but would say that there have been several lawyers and indeed one QC commenting on the policy along the way and I would defer to their integrity and expertise on this.