Argles James

From: Planning Support
Subject: FW: Comment Received from Public Access

Application Reference No. : HGY/2016/0109
Site Address: Aquarius Archery Club Fortis Green Reservoir Southern Road London N2 9LN
Comments by: Hakkan Hassan
From:

Submission: Support
Comments: I whole-heartedly support the applications.

I attended the club¿s beginners course approximately 3 years ago following a personal family tragedy and have been a member ever since. Initially, the course was intended to be a distraction but as I attended each session, I began to see the substantial benefits the club offers to individuals like me, and people of varying abilities and backgrounds.

The club instils a sense of community and inclusion for all. It is a safe environment for people of different backgrounds to come together, socialise and partake in an Olympic sport. Current members provide a wide range in ethnic diversity with varying levels of physical ability. Both genders are well represented. Everyone is made to feel welcome and is able to participate, from the very young (from 8 years old) to the more elderly (no limit). The club enhances the social and economic well-being of the area and promotes significant leisure benefits to both constituents and those from the surrounding areas.

The clubhouse is the heart of the club. In addition to providing functional benefits such as toilets/changing room, warm place to set up equipment, storage etc. it also provides a hub for members to meet, socialise, learn and discuss various aspects of archery in a safe environment. Without the clubhouse, the club could not effectively function.

The previous clubhouse, which I understand was in situ for a very long period, was sadly devasted by fire. It was of a similar size to the current structure (with the current structure substantially lower in height than the previous clubhouse), with a slight movement in position as required by the current owner of the land. The site provides for more than ample car parking, thereby limiting any impact on public highways or residents. Members are always considerate and respectful of local residents.

I feel it important to point out that the land on which the clubhouse is situated, is private land. The clubhouse is positioned a fair distance away from the boundary of the residential properties and is less intrusive than the previous structure. The single storey building is situated at a lower level than the ground floor of the residential houses (that back onto it) and is somewhat hidden below the back of the large residential gardens some of which contain dense foliage to their rear. In my opinion, the clubhouse has very little or no impact to the view from the residential properties. In any event, there is generally no right to a view. The inclusion of the proposed cladding around the clubhouse is aesthetically pleasing and in keeping with the open environment and character of the surrounding area.

The club was established approximately 50 years ago and provides an invaluable part of Haringey¿s history and heritage. It would be a tragedy to deprive the area of such a wonderful resource particularly given the austerity measures that are currently being experienced by many local authorities.

I whole-heartedly support these applications and would urge the planning committee/officers to grant the applications.