

Representations on Belgravia Neighbourhood Plan.

Some swift observations.

**BELGRAVIA NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2023 – 2040** Submission Stage (Regulation 16)  
Consultation Version May 2023.

The above document mentions the disabled and/or infirm communities in the following instance.

Building Line and Boundary Treatments – Design principles.

“6.2. Upper and lower ground floors set behind a railed area may deliver high-quality residential accommodation in appropriate locations. Considerations of disabled access should be integrated into design proposals. “Pp100.

**Belgravia Design Codes Belgravia Neighbourhood Forum. January 2023**

The above document mentions the disabled and/or infirm communities in the following 3 paragraphs.

“5.10 Considerations of accessibility and sustainability should inform the design...”

2.10 Green Spaces.

“Subject to heritage and accessibility constraints, these codes strongly support investment in additional urban greening.”

s 2.13 Design on Peripheral Sites

“...and how we promote greater accessibility and inclusivity.” Pp53

**Belgravia Neighbourhood Plan 2023-2040 Basic Conditions Statement.**

Refers to disability once.

Knowing that I have not had access to all the relevant documents I can only seek to respond with the following comments.

There seems to be a cursory acknowledgement of the needs of the disabled/elderly/infirm members of our society. One might get the impression that such allowances are considered a nuisance, “Subject to heritage and accessibility constraints, these codes strongly support investment in additional urban greening.”

By way of constructive advice may I draw your attention to the following, by way of comparison?

“The Social Model of Disability states that:

‘. . . a person isn't “disabled” because of their impairment, health condition, or the ways in which they may differ from what is commonly considered the medical “norm”; rather it is the physical and attitudinal barriers in society – prejudice, lack of access adjustments and systemic exclusion – that disable people.

To say that someone is “just different” or “differently-abled” ignores the fact that they face these disabling barriers created by society, and implies that they do not experience discrimination, and that society does not need to change to become more accessible and inclusive' ([www.shapearts.org.uk/News/social-model-of-disability](http://www.shapearts.org.uk/News/social-model-of-disability)).<sup>1</sup> “

*In a recent family Law Journal the following comment represents a more a holistic view of the disabled communities.*

*“A Disability is caused by society's unwillingness to meet the needs of ALL people. The Social Model makes a clear distinction between impairment (a condition, illness or loss/lack of function) and disability (barriers and discrimination).*

*The term 'Disabled people' is used to describe people with impairments who are disabled by barriers constructed by society.”*

Last, but definitely not least, the quote from the UK charity ‘Scope’ brings us up to date and helps us to realise that the mere mention of accessibility will no longer suffice.

“Remember that only 17% of people with disabilities are born with them. The chances are that your clients will develop disabilities as they age. (8% of children, 19% of the working aged and 46% of the pensionable aged. There are 14.1 million disabled people in the UK. \*Scope). “Jo O'Sullivan Date:1 SEP 2022. FLJ

Consequently, there is a societal expectation that all communities will be catered for within any development considered worthy of our City of Westminster.

Having sat on many planning application committees I can only say that I look forward to the completed proposal, which one assumes will be an improvement on the present presentations wherein the details of accessibility for the disabled communities are sorely lacking.

All in all it is hoped that the planned works go well and that the quality of the developments meet the standards expected by Westminster residents as we constantly engage to preserve the unique beauty of our City.

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21/07/2023.