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Crater big enough to fit a man in opens up in Hampstead

PUBLISHED: 13:18 21 October 2011

By Josh Pettitt



*Cllr Chris Knight with his feet in the giant hole in Redington Road, Hampstead.
Picture: Nigel Sutton*

A vast hole in the road leading to an underground chasm opened up in Hampstead over the weekend.



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students protest
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Cllr Chris Knight discovered the apparent pothole in the middle of Redington Road on Saturday afternoon.

But it turned out to a small opening leading to a gaping cavern below – sparking renewed fears about the effects of basement developments on Hampstead’s foundations.

The former cabinet member for environment said: “The hole is big enough to swallow a small car.



*The hole led to a much larger underground chasm.
Picture: Nigel Sutton*

“This is precisely the sort of thing that’s very worrying for people. It does not bode well for basement construction in the area if one small water flow can do this.”

He believes the hole formed because of sand being eroded over a long period of time.

He laid down a hazard sign and spent the next hour directing traffic around the hole until Camden Council made it safe.

A council spokesman said: “Work to repair the road, investigate the cause of the hole and to estimate the cost of repair will be carried out and the repair work will take two or three days to complete.”

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Cllr Chris Knight speaks out against proposed basement redevelopment

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Thursday, 27 October, 2011

Plans for a basement extension just two doors from the spot where a gaping hole appeared in Hampstead have sparked fears of further subsidence.

The proposed basement development in Redington Road, Hampstead, is near to the site of a vast cavern that opened up in the road two weeks ago - large enough to fit a man in.

Cllr Chris Knight, who discovered the hole, believes it was caused by sand being washed away by water flow over many years.

And Reddington Road resident Andrew Holmes says the basement development could play havoc with a stream that runs beneath his home and may flow under the proposed extension.

The 66-year-old said: "Not only would these plans see the ground water disturbed and diverted but more than likely it would cause massive subsidence or a massive heave.

"All the houses on that same course would be adversely affected."

Mr Holmes, who has lived in the family house for 65 years, believes it also sits on a stream that feeds the River Westbourne.

But a report by planning consultants says the extension, next to a Grade II-listed house, will not affect water flow.

Camden Council's planning committee is yet to consider the application.

By Josh Pettitt

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Basement plans near Hampstead road chasm spark subsidence fears

PUBLISHED: 17:40 26 October 2011 | **UPDATED:** 17:40 26 October 2011
By Josh Pettitt



Cllr Chris Knight sits in the giant hole in Redington Road, Hampstead. Picture: Nigel Sutton

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