

Sent: 02 November 2010 20:53  
To: Planning  
Subject: Welwyn Hatfield Council Online Planning - Comment

PLANNING  
DEPARTMENT

- 3 NOV 2010

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Application Number: N6/2010/2055/MA

Name: [REDACTED]

Address: 51 Sherrardspark Road

Welwyn Garden City

AL8 7LD

Comment Type: Object

Comment: With regard to the planning applications for a supermarket and other related proposals, I would like to object on the following grounds: since I first moved to WGC twenty-five years ago, in my opinion facilities in the town centre have greatly improved, while still being entirely in keeping with the established character of the 'garden city', as we know it here. The ongoing revamp of the Sainsbury's supermarket is long overdue, and should help enhance that part of the town. However, I do not feel we need any further supermarkets in or near the town centre, while, to my mind, the existing Tesco site at Oldings Corner is perfectly placed to contend with the volumes of traffic which a large retail unit can generate. I'm not clear where the business would come from to sustain yet another supermarket in Welwyn Garden, unless by draining business from the existing town centre, nor am I clear how our existing road network would cope. Were the Oldings Corner site to close, this would presumably only compound the problem.

I'm also not convinced about the viability of the other proposals. The hotel would occupy a very noisy site, I'm not aware that we need another doctor's surgery, the proposed recreation ground appears to have a potentially busy road running through it, and the suggested swimming pool, though arguably a welcome amenity for the town, seems to have rather disappointingly shrunk - in size and scope - since first proposed. Also, the proposals for improving the vital pedestrian link from the town centre to the new development, namely the station footbridge, appear to be woefully inadequate. In short, I'm not convinced that this proposed new development is going to bring new lifeblood to the town centre, rather, I think it is likely to drain it away.

Meanwhile, we are repeatedly told that there is a crying need for additional housing in the S.E., in Hertfordshire, and therefore, presumably, in W.G.C Instead of the development as proposed, with some housing added into the mix, I would like to see a full scale housing development on the site, landscaped in Welwyn Garden City style, but also, as a fitting tribute to Ebenezer Howard's pioneering vision, I would like it to be an imaginatively designed, forward-thinking, award-winning 'eco-development'. Such a scheme, together with an improved footbridge, should bring visitors to admire it, and extra shoppers into the existing town centre.