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**From:** Fiona Thomson  
**Sent:** 05 December 2013 12:53  
**To:** Denis and Gill Smith; Helen Bromley  
**Cc:** Tony Skottowe; Planning  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed Extension

PLANNING  
DEPARTMENT

06 DEC 2013

RECEIVED

Dear Mr and Mrs Smith

Thank you for your email.

I have noted your comments and will be considering all aspects of the planning application at the Development Management Committee.

Kind regards

*Fiona*

Councillor Fiona Thomson  
Handside Ward  
Chair of Social Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
Borough Health Champion

[www.welwynhatfield.info/fionathomson](http://www.welwynhatfield.info/fionathomson)

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**From:** Denis and Gill Smith  
**Sent:** 01 December 2013 17:28  
**To:** Helen Bromley  
**Cc:** Tony Skottowe; Fiona Thomson  
**Subject:** Proposed Extension

Dear Councillors Bromley, Skottowe and Thomson,

We are writing, albeit at the eleventh hour to implore you to use your best efforts to prevent the ugly extension on which we believe the Council is proposing to vote on Thursday.

We understand that more accommodation is needed because a lease on another building runs out shortly. The Council executive must surely have known the date of the lease expiry for many years, so one must question why it has invested so much time and money in planning an extension which it should also have known would be controversial, to say the least.

Even so, it is not, we believe, too late for reason to prevail. As a result of the recent recession, there are many vacant commercial premises in the borough, including some in Howardsgate, close to the proposed new development. There is no certainty that these premises will ever be re-let commercially; fewer goods are made in the UK and more people shop online. Why not take over some of these premises for Council use, and allocate the money earmarked for the extension for much-needed housing instead?

For many years, the Council's planners have zealously, and usually successfully, protected our Garden City ethos created by Ebenezer Howard, Louis de Soissons and others. You Councillors (especially the Executive Member for the Environment) know as well as we do how your Planning Department would, quite justifiably, react if anyone else submitted such an application. That it is proposed in a Conservation Area of all locations would not be believed if it had not actually occurred.

This application seems therefore to be tainted with hypocrisy. We will never again vote for any Councillor who is party to construction of this out-of-character extension.

Best Regards,  
Denis and Gill Smith  
155 Parkway AL8 6JA