

Andrew Windscheffel

(PA)

SD

From: Tracy Harvey
Sent: 07 October 2013 09:14
To: Planning
Subject: FW: N6/2013/1938/MA

-----Original Message-----

From: Patricia Haines On Behalf Of Michel Saminaden
Sent: 07 October 2013 09:13
To: Tracy Harvey
Subject: FW: N6/2013/1938/MA

Patricia Haines
PA to the Chief Executive
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-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 October 2013 18:34
To: Michel Saminaden
Subject: N6/2013/1938/MA

Re: Proposed Council Office Extension.

I have viewed the proposed extension as shown on the Council web site together with the internal plans, and the Special Edition Newsletter issued by the WGC Society. As a retired local architect I am aware that any really profound comment on a proposal should be based on a detailed knowledge of the clients needs, and all the many other factors that must be taken into account. However just viewing things as can be seen, I find the internal planning produces an extremely dense and cramped and third rate environment for the occupants, which is directly created by trying to force everything into the existing space between the two rear wings of the original building. Is there some over riding reason for this necessity, regardless of the effect, for example, on the existing rooms etc. Without there being any obvious way in which additional space can be found within this strait jacket, I am puzzled why the obvious alternative of extending onto a major part of the abutting car park is not proposed, which I understand is owned or capable of being owned by the Council.. Such an extension would be quick and straight forward to design and construct, and cause far less disturbance to the present office workers both during and after construction; and could still permit the creation of the new Council Chamber on the ground floor and with more room to develop it than is presently the case.


The proposed external modern glass framed three storey facade to the infill accommodation is slick and what I would have expected some students to have proposed at my school of architecture some 60 years ago when being a leader in the Brave New World was the driving force. However to treat the existing in this manner in the real world, and to the central civic building of this World Famous Garden City is, in my opinion, totally wrong, and in terms of the Council's responsibilities and history of decisions under their Planning and Conservation and Management Powers, utterly inexplicable,

And at one stroke it would make the Council both a target for derision, and a powerless arbiter of taste in the historic areas of the town.

Finally I am puzzled to know how this proposal has ever got this far, and makes me wonder how the Panning rules are now dealt with, on my assumption that the Council Office is subject to the same Conservation and general Management Rules as all nearby properties. Do you have to get an outside authority to give consent, or can you bypass all normal systems and give self approval? And who now runs your Planning Section under Management etc which when it came to the Council from the New Town Commission did swear to the community that it would always be independent, which frankly many of us at the time found impossible to believe.

Yours sincerely

David N Sutcliffe, Retired Architect.



Sent: 07 October 2013 17:48
To: Sue Dietzman
Subject: Re: N6/2013/1938/MA

Thank you for your acknowledgement. My details are :

David Sutcliffe (Retired Architect)
10 Nut Grove
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