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Sent: 07 October 2013 11:21  
To: Planning  
Subject: Welwyn Hatfield Council Online Planning - Comment

07 OCT 2013  
11:21 AM  
06 OCT 2013

Application Number: N6/2013/1938/MA  
Name: Travis Spurling  
Address: 67 Moorymead Close  
Watton-at-Stone,  
SG14 3HF

Comment Type: Object

Comment: As a resident of Welwyn Garden City for forty years at 59 Bridge Road, I have a personal interest in maintaining the essential ethos of this remarkable town, and object in the strongest terms to the proposed extension to the Council Offices.

1. The exterior appears to be totally out of context with the existing award winning building that it extends. The extension has no need to be merely a copy of the present design, but can still be in harmony with it (as exemplified by the recent winner of the Stirling prize at Astley Castle).
2. It is understood that the new extension will have to accommodate all the current staff at Bridge Road East; it is clearly inadequate for this, and with a total seating space for 120, it allows no planning for the future. Additionally, there is minimal provision of filing cabinets etc., indicating some quaint faith in the discredited 'paperless office', and also I believe that orientation of all the desks towards the windows is against current HSE recommendations.
3. Most important of all, it appears that this planning application is being rushed through, with the application being received and validated on the same day, and documents showing errors have been accepted that would never be passed for a private application. For example:
  - one consultant appears to think that he is addressing St. Albans City Council!
  - another consultant refers to the Police Training School across the road!
  - some floor plans are incorrectly titled.

Overall, the application seems to have absolutely no appreciation of the need for any extension to be characteristic of the town's famed architecture - try again!