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Sent: 08 October 2013 09:51  
To: Planning  
Subject: Welwyn Hatfield Council Online Planning - Comment

Application Number: N6/2013/1938/MA  
Name: N G H BELL  
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Comment Type: Object

Comment: I OBJECT to this planning application:

It conflicts with the Council's own Policy and that of the NPPF in that the proposed design of this extension is not subservient to and does not respect the setting or the external finishes of this important civic building. A wall of glass will be an alien visual intrusion in the Conservation Area. The Garden City is not in the city centre of Birmingham or Leeds where such an architectural gimmick might be acceptable. The architects seem to think this is a scheme where they can broadcast their talents through their own 'walkie talkie' building, something entirely inappropriate here. I assume the brief to the architects was that the building should be cheap to build and quick to erect - that is at odds with any advice your officers give to applicants for householder applications, let alone major commercial schemes in the heart of the World's second Garden City. This is a double standard and if the Council approves this design it will send all the wrong signals to developers for years to come. The Welwyn Garden City Society makes some extremely good points in its critique of the proposal and I strongly urge officers and members of the council to follow their advice which will ensure a better (and possibly swifter and cheaper) outcome than pursuing this awful carbuncle on a much loved building in the Conservation Area.