

**46 DIGSWELL RISE
WELWYN GARDEN CITY
HERTS
AL8 7PW**



Planning Dept
Council Offices
The Campus
Welwyn Garden City
Herts
AL8 6AE

7 October 2013

Dear sirs

Re: Council Offices Extension ref N6/2013/1938/MA

My wife and I both wish to register our objections to the proposed changes to be made to the Council Offices on the east side of the Campus in Welwyn Garden City.

Quite apart from any consideration of whether such a development to provide offices for council employees should take place in a less expensive area of real estate in the borough, our principal objections include:

1. The external design of proposed construction in the heart of the Welwyn Garden City conservation area is totally out keeping with the ethos and architectural style of the existing buildings in the immediate vicinity, including a new residential care home recently built next door to the Council Offices.
2. We do not believe that the proposals for this development meet the council's own criteria in respect of style and materials for developments in the conservation area.
3. The "Planning and economic supporting statement" put forward in support of this application lacks credibility in a number of specific issues, which

casts doubt on the reliability of the rest of the document. Some specific examples of this are:

- a. The statement says that to the north, on the opposite side of College Way is the "Hertfordshire Police College". This is rubbish; the old Police Station which was on that site until it was demolished some time ago and a residential care home (referred to above), which does appear to blend in reasonably well with its surroundings, has been built there.
- b. Under the heading of "Listed Buildings" the document refers to Digswell Lodge. It describes this as having been "... recently extended for use as a conference centre...". Again this is nonsense as in 2007 the council approved planning application N6/2007/0987/MA for the conversion of the old farmhouse into four apartments.

Yours faithfully,


Clive Jackson

Dee Jackson (Mrs)