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PLANNING DEPARTMENT
11 OCT 2013
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11, The Quadrangle,
Welwyn Garden City.
Herts AL8 6SG
[Redacted]

05.10.13

To the Council Planning Department
Council Office Extension ref N6/2013/1938/MA

Dear Mr. Michel Saminaden, Chief Executive Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council.

We have lived in Welwyn Garden City for over -80 years. We consider it a good place to live, and appreciate the thoughtful and forward-looking planning of Ebenezer Howard and Sir Theodore Chambers.in the 1920's . But we are appalled at the proposed extension to the Council Offices.. This is INCONGRUOUS –the 'Glazed Façade' does not fit in to the existing building ,at all. Moreover-----

1, Conservation Area and Policy.

The proposed extension breaks the Council's Policy, and its own rules - for the Conserva tion Area. Ordinary Citizens are required to conform to these rules.why should the Council consider itself privileged t o ignore them?

2, Consultation

Why has the Council not consulted the public?

The first we knew of the plan was the photo and article in the Welwyn and Hatfield Times of Sept. 25th.

For previous decisions, there have been public meetings for residents to ask for clarification and to make their views known .

3, Planning Application

This is inaccurate in several ways and appears to have been rushed. {although the need for the extension had been known for 25 years] e.g The consultants' report seems unaware that the nearby building is retirement flats,[not a Police Station] and appears to assume that Welwyn Garden City is part of St Albans ! [Are they confused about other factors ?]

4. The Interior

It is said that the reason for the extension is to provide more space for the staff, yet some will have to work elsewhere or at home! This will bring extra expense, and possibly inefficiency. There will be higher running costs for lighting and ventilation.

5. The Cost.

The cost to us, ratepayers will be enormous. {£ 4- 7 million}
Why did the original Designers/ Contractors cease working on

6. Informing Council Members

Not all Councillors were given details about the project, but were later made aware of it by The Heritage Society Why was this not done by the members of the Council Members' Reference Group.?

It seems to us that this project has not been carefully thought out by the Member Reference Group, that it appears to have been put together rather 'secretly' and hastily and without any of the normal Planning and Consultation processes. In our opinion, The Council has not dealt with this project democratically, without any consultation with us, the RatePayers We wish to continue to live in a Garden City of which can be proud. SO, PLEASE think again, and proceed consistently with the Ethos of Ebenezer Howard.

Yours sincerely, Mary Ashworth

Enid Ashworth

Copies to Cllr. Malcolm Cowan, Cllr Tony Skottowe,
Cllr Howard Morgan, Cllr John Dean

Shane O' Reilly Esq [WGC Society]