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Sent: 12 November 2013 19:46
To: Planning
Cc: Malcolm Cowan; Tony Skottowe; Helen Bromley; Fiona Thomson
Subject: Council Office Extension N6/2013/1938/MA

PLANNING
DEPARTMENT
13 NOV 2013
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Dear Planners

I wish to object to the above planning application on the same grounds as a objected to the earlier application for the same works since although changes have been made, they are only minor and do not address the concerns expressed in my earlier objection.

Objections

1. The proposed extension does not respect the materials and setting nor is it subservient to the existing building, as required by the Council's own planning department in a conservation area. It gives the appearance of being designed by an accountant, rather than an architect to achieve minimum construction cost rather than exhibit civic pride in a world renowned Garden City townscape.
2. The plans give the impression that the key objective is to accommodate the Council staff, from the Bridge Road offices at minimal cost by attempting to graft a large maximum space box onto the existing Council offices with little regard to the original building's design ambience.
3. The Council should be doing more to enhance the Garden City townscape, not degrading it with utilitarian bad taste.
4. The planning application has been too hurried and offered insufficient full and interactive public consultation, particularly for such a highly visible and important location in the town centre at The Campus. In my opinion there should have been a scaled model of the development available in a public place for the public to view and make comment.
5. There is no need to rush this application through. Instead the Council could apply for a short lease extension on its existing annexe building in Bridge Road or seek alternative short term accommodation, of which, there is a surplus in the town.
6. The Council's planners are very stringent, and quite rightly so, in applying conservation rules for new buildings by electors, as I have experienced in the past. In my opinion it would be a dangerous precedent for the Council to relax these conservation policies for its own plans and such action might be seen as morally very suspect.
7. Councillors are elected to and accountable to the electorate of the Borough. Election does not give the Council an unlimited mandate to implement controversial actions, particularly ones with such high visual impact and cost, without more meaningful public dialogue.

Regards

David Brown
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