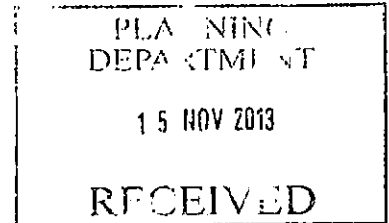




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Mr & Mrs P Maclean-Eltham
15 Elmwood
Welwyn Garden City
Hertfordshire
AL8 6LD

Mr R Aston
Planning Dept.
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
The Campus
Welwyn Garden City
AL8 6AE



14th November 2013

Dear Mr Aston,

Council Office Extension Ref: N6/2013/1938/MA

When we wrote to you on the 8th October 2013 we objected to the proposed Council Office Extension on the grounds that:

- 1) Welwyn Garden City is unique and the Council is duty bound to maintain its character by ensuring that all development within the conservation area is appropriate in terms of design and materials. How can the Council justify a proposed extension that clearly does not satisfy its own requirements?
- 2) The angular glass structure is ugly, out of scale and detracts from Cecil Elsom's award winning building. It does not 'respect the materials and setting' nor is it 'subservient to the existing building' which are conditions that the Council impose on all other residents and businesses. The Council should be leading by example, not flouting its own planning rules.
- 3) The internal layout does not appear to be fit for purpose. There is insufficient space for the current number of employees and totally inadequate space for the storage of documents. How will you accommodate addition staff in the future should the need arise?

Despite the changes to the planned Council Office Extension, the design is still fundamentally the same and in our opinion totally unacceptable.

The large glass entrance is still completely out of character with the existing building and those buildings forming the central core of the town, for which Welwyn Garden City is highly regarded. This is an award winning iconic building in the centre of the town so I should like you to explain on what basis you can justify something which is so out of keeping. The Council still does not appear to have learnt any lessons from their past mistakes and this seems to be heading for yet another ill-conceived disaster.

Planning rules exist to prevent inappropriate development and the preservation of the Conservation area in Welwyn Garden City is dependent on them being rigorously applied. The current plans still fail to satisfy the requirement that all development in the Conservation area must be appropriate in terms of design and materials and should be subservient to the existing building.

I trust the Council will now listen to the residents and review the design. We know that we are not alone in calling for a review of the proposed extension and we look forward to hearing what action you intend to take.

Yours sincerely,

