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PLANNING
DEPARTMENT
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Sent: 13 November 2013 19:36
To: Planning
Subject: Welwyn Hatfield Council Online Planning - Comment

Application Number: N6/2013/1938/MA

Name: Lesley Mardell

Address: 77 Hardings, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, AL7 2HA Comment Type: Object

Comment: I wish to object to the amended planning application for all the reasons given in my original objection statement of the 3rd October 2013. The only change I can make out from the artist's impression of the amended exterior is that the connecting elevations between the existing building and the overbearing glass portico is that these are now intended to be constructed of matching brick (which we were given to believe by the council were now unobtainable).

In an interview yesterday with BBC Three Counties Radio, the leader of the council, John Dean, argued that the changes now meant that the glass portico represented a mere 20% of the new construction. As can be seen by these amended plans this is quite obviously wildly misleading. It can be clearly seen that the vast majority of the new facade is glass and demonstrably not subservient to the existing building.

The council, as apparent in these revised plans and the subsequent radio interview, has not taken local residents' views into account and is clearly not prepared to take on board their concerns. The council has not carried out any meaningful consultation with the Welwyn Garden City Society (, who seem to be the only guardians of the garden city principles), despite the council leader's assertion to the contrary and absolutely no consultation with the electorate. This is costing us residents £4 million and therefore needs to be right, especially when you consider vital funding to charities and welfare organisations is being severely cut back. Please do not waste our money on an ill thought out design.

We need a public consultation to completely rethink this extension as we cannot rely on the council to simply rubberstamp its own flawed plans. Please refuse this planning application in its current form.