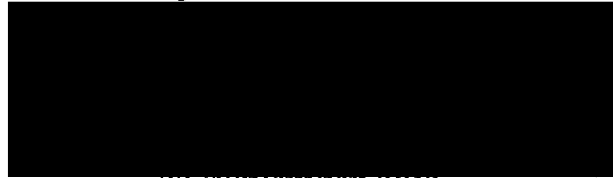
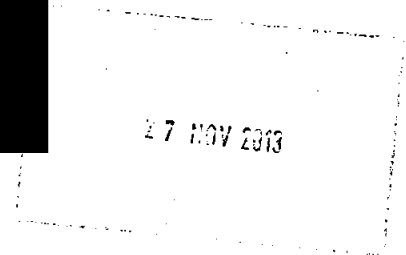


30 Valley Road  
Welwyn Garden City  
Hertfordshire AL8 7DN

email reply  
25/11/13



22 November 2013



Councillor Fiona Thompson  
57 Attimore Road  
Welwyn Garden City

**Reference: Council Office Extension Reference: N6/2013/1938/MA**

Dear Councillor Thompson,

We object to the above planning application for the following reasons.

The planning rules laid down by the Council for all extensions in the Conservation area are applicable to all property owners whether residential or otherwise, for very good reason. The Council should not be allowed to ignore the regulations that they initiated and insist on other property owners complying with.

The plans submitted, show an extension which is neither subservient to the original building nor using sympathetic building materials. It is dominant in size, mainly constructed of glass and of a very modern design. The original building is of a brick construction, neo-Georgian in design and reflects the general architecture of the Conservation area.

There will be a marked effect on the street scene. Although the proposed extension is at the rear of the Council Offices, it will be viewed from Stonehills and Bridge Road (at a major road intersection in the town centre) and also from the slip road off the Campus leading to the Waitrose Supermarket. What will be seen, is a giant glass box, stuck onto the back of a very pleasant matured red brick building and not sympathetic to its neighbours, both of which, have complied successfully with the planning rules. (McCarthy and Stone retirement apartments and Waitrose.)

As the Council has now been able to match the bricks where the portico joins the original building (having previously said they were unavailable) surely these could be used to replace the glass box with a brick extension that matches the style of the original building. This would meld the extension into its surroundings, instead of making it stick out like a sore thumb. A brick extension would also make the internal working conditions more comfortable.

The citizens of Welwyn Garden City (whose council tax payments will be used to fund the build) should have the opportunity to voice their opinions at a Public Review/Consultation on the Council's proposals for this extension. Posting planning flyers on lampposts around the Council Offices and in the local paper does not constitute Public Consultation.

Yours sincerely



Dale and Lynne Emery