
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 March 2021 21:58
To: Clare Howe <c.howe@welhat.gov.uk>
Subject: Objection to Proposed Broadwater Road Development Plans

**** WARNING: This email originated outside the WHBC Network. Please be extra vigilant when opening attachments or clicking links ****

Dear Miss Howe,

Objection to Proposed Broadwater Road Site Development Plans

My name is Jaume Giro and I was born, and have lived in Welwyn Garden City my life. It more than just my hometown, it is this part of who I am. I must write then, to express my total objection to the proposed development plans for the Broadwater Road site. It is clear to me from studying the details of the plan that they have been conceived by persons so utterly unfamiliar with the ideals that our town was built on, and with absolutely no understanding of our town's identity

That these plans should be revealed so shortly after the celebration of the centenary of the town's founding show only the degree of insensitivity the developers to the Garden City concept. The plans represent the greatest threat to the towns original concept in its entire history. To proceed with these plans would be to totally destroy the Garden City idea, and would be a cruel insult to the physical, financial and emotional effort invested by generations of the towns citizens who worked so hard to make it the beautiful town that it is today.

It is apparent that the developers think of Welwyn Garden City only in terms of a piece of high value real estate and not as a beautiful town that succeeded because it was guided by a set of solid ideals. Welwyn Garden City's founding in 1920 was an answer to the still relevant problems of population density and overcrowding in major cities, and a desire to achieve a balance between town and countryside that would offer a better and healthier quality of life for ordinary people. The proposed plans are in no way in keeping with the Garden City idea, being far too large, too dense and with very little areas of greenery.

The design of the buildings themselves are absolutely in no way in keeping with the unique character of the town. They appear to be better suited to a New Town or an inner city. Visually, the towering buildings will be able to be seen from the town centre, completely altering the familiar skyline with imposing ugly looking apartment blocks which will even dwarf and obscure the Shredded Wheat factory, which is one of the town's most famous landmarks.

The massive scale of the Broadwater Road development will destroy the sense of

balance between town and country that was the intention of Ebenezer Howard and his colleagues. In fact, it will represent the very failure of the Garden City concept, as once the precedent is set for buildings of this size to be put up in our town it will no doubt lead us to similarly ambitious development plans in the coming years. Such a similar scale of developments will only lead us further away from Howard's intentions and ultimately towards the town's decline. A new generation of Welwyn Garden City citizens will grow up never being able to enjoy the benefits of living in a Garden City and they will only suffer the problems of an ill-planned, densely populated, highly urbanised and aesthetically displeasing place the towns original planners worked so hard to avoid.

Up to now, Welwyn Garden City has been able to avoid the mistakes made by nearby Hertfordshire New Towns such as Hatfield, Stevenage, and Hemel Hempstead, with their densely packed estates and tall ugly buildings. They are places that are much unloved by their inhabitants. If successful, it is difficult to envisage the proposed development having a positive impact on the local transport system, medical services, and schools. The number of new inhabitants the development will bring is simply too great for a town of our size. The proposals will most certainly put Welwyn Garden City on the course to becoming like one of these depressing New Town - something with Welwyn Hatfield council should be doing everything in their power to prevent.

Town planners and architects come from all over the world to see our town. As Welwyn Garden City enters its second century, it is more important than ever that it continues to stand as an absolutely outstanding example for other proposed new town's to pattern themselves on - a reference point to guide the decision's or future town planners and avoid the mistakes made by the unpleasant post-war New Towns

When Ebenezer Howard outlined his vision for his Garden City concept in his 1898 book *Garden Cities of To-morrow*, in discussing the subject of the towns growth he starkly warned 'that such growth shall not lessen or destroy' his town, saying it would 'for ever destroy its right to be called a Garden City'. I think he would have been bitterly disappointed to learn of the developers proposed plans for his Second Garden City. His warning really ought to be heeded by the Welwyn Hatfield council.

Welwyn Garden City is Sir Ebenezer Howard's greatest achievement, please do not ruin it with these awful plans for its future.

Yours Sincerely,



Please consider the environment before printing this email.

You can report missed bins, abandoned vehicles, fly-tipping, litter, graffiti and flyposting as well as tell us about problems with litter and dog bins Online. The information in this email is intended for the named recipients only. It may be subject to public disclosure under the Freedom of Information