

7 Sherrardspark Road Welwyn Garden City AL8 7JW

1 August 2021

Chief Executive Officer Welwyn Hatfield Council

Dear Chief Executive

“WGC 2120”

Welwyn GARDEN City? Soon to be the London Borough of Welhat!

I strongly object to the proposal to build a multi storey car park on the existing car park on the west side of the Campus. I will be writing to you in more detail about the other inappropriate proposals in regard to this area of our GARDEN city Conservation Area.

I strongly object to you spending my council tax money in this appalling “plan” that has no relationship to the concept of our brilliant planners who designed and developed the town. The existing car parks on both sides of the Campus are discreetly placed and maintain the sylvan setting of the Campus gardens and well spaced buildings around it. It is an important open area of the town, not just a circulatory system for traffic. The original concept was for such buildings as the “town hall” and public buildings not a multi storey car park. The whole concept of the area will be destroyed by such an ugly and unnecessary proposal.

The two car parks, one on the east side of the Campus and one on the west side of the Campus have distinctive uses and are both needed in their own right and not surplus to requirements, were built as public car parks and should remain as such and not sold off for redevelopment. Campus East provides long stay and is much used by the college, shop, hospitality and office workers in the town, visitors wanting longer stay, garaging and season tickets for residents requiring this use. Campus West provides short stay for visitors to the Campus West building facilities, the public library, doctors and dentists, walkers and cyclists wishing to access Sherrardspark Woods and also to the shopping area for the shorter visit.

Other objections to multi level car parking:

Inappropriate redevelopment in a prominent and iconic position of the Conservation Area

Increased traffic and congestion around Digswell Road, Campus and Bridge Road

Safety of people needing to cross over to the College, Peel Court, Council Offices and Supermarket

Detrimental effect on nearby residential properties, noise, excessive light pollution and vehicle exhaust pollution and antisocial behaviour

Loss of daylight to homes and gardens for much of the year

Disturbance to nocturnal wildlife by lighting – owls and bats are wonderful to have so close to homes and gardens

Damage to roots and/or removal of mature trees, part of the historic woodland

Many people prefer an open ground level surface car park for safety reasons

Many women feel unsafe in a multi storey car park in the evening

Many people will not want to drive up to higher levels for short visits

Many people find difficulty getting small children, or frail passengers, in and out of vehicles at high level for visits to the library or indoor play and entertainment facilities

Many people, particularly families, will be concerned regarding difficulty for unloading cycles, buggies at high level

Noise and dust, disturbance during construction

Displacement of car parking places during construction – increase in parking in already overcrowded residential roads

Customers will not return to pay at what will be inflated prices - example, when station redeveloped, endangering emergency, maintenance and delivery vehicles, overall loss of income to the council

I am also extremely upset that the council have chosen such an insensitive time to press ahead with this proposal, when so many people are worried about the effect of the pandemic on their health, income, jobs, future for their families. Also for those who have been in shielding, whilst this is “paused” are still advised to avoid busy places. It is clear the pandemic will be with us for many months hence, numbers now in excess of the number of people living in “Welwyn Hatfield”. The pandemic, together with other economic worries in regard to leaving Europe, may change the whole concept of our lives and the future of the community and town. If your plan is for the next 100 years, then what is the rush? Who is going to benefit?

The whole proposal should be put on hold or preferably abandoned.

Yours faithfully

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